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Volume 19 Number 5774

#### **Crown Prince** meets Hurd, Rifkind

LONDON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was Monday the guest of honour at a lunch hosted by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. Prince Hassan and Mr. Hurd discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and Europe's role in supporting it. The talks also dealt with Jordanian-British relations and issues of common interest. British Defence Secretary Malcolm, Rifkind posted a dinner in honour of the Crown Prince, who is currently on a private visit to the United Kingdom. Prince Hassan and the defence secretary discussed bilateral Brightman and he cold relations in political and de-

#### Mubarak sees *Tertile land for* terrorism'

LONDON (AFP) - The Gaza Strip and Jericho risk becoming "a fertile land for terrorism" that could spread to Europe unless the West helps Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat reduce tensions among his people, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak warned here Monday. "Fundamentalists everywhere in the world who are earning money from terrorism, from the Arab World, Europeans. everywhere, they are going to gather there," he said in an interview with the BBC World Service's News Hour. "And they are going to be financed by those who are against the present situation.
And the present situation and Gaza,
the present situation of the present situation. then the heart of the whole Mediterranean world, so we have to be very careful." Mr. Mubarak, who met with Prime Minister John Maior at the start of an official twoday visit, said donor nations reeded to do more than give money to the territories

#### 2 Israeli soldiers **wounded** in Lebanon

under Palestinian autonomy,

they accd to help manage its

MARJAYOUN (AP) -

Guernillas clashed in artillery and mortar duels with Israeli troops and allied militiamen in South Lebanon Monday. Security sources said two Israeli soldiers were wounded. The exchanges erupted after Hizbollah guerrillas attacked an Israeli position in Tallousah in the central sector of a border enclave Israel occupies in South Lebanon. The security sources said the two Israelis suffered shrapnel injuries and were evacuated by truck clinics to northern Israel. The sources said another outpost manned by Israel's proxy militia in the willage of Qantara, some 200 e target of a separate morattack by Hizbollah mili-Surrogate South Lebanon Army militiamen struck back with howitzer fire on Hizbolhideouts and escape rentes facing the enclave's

#### the sources. 'Iranian hostages tortured to death'

central sector, according to

TEHRAN (AFP) - Three ranian diplomats and a news photographer were tortured and then murdered following their abduction during Lebaqon's civil war, a Tehran newspaper said Monday. The Keyhan International denied Iran's official version the four were still alive in its editorial about the Beirut trial of Samir Geagea, the former head of the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, on charges of murdering fellow Christians. The three diplomats and a photographer with the offi-cial iranian news agency RNA and their Shiite Musim Lebanese driver went thising at an LF checkpoint to north Lebanon on July 4, 1982. "The hostages were they are a like if demembered, burnt alive, Out to pieces. There is no way they could still be alive," the English language daily said.

# Fateh flexes muscles in Gaza amid efforts to shore up truce

### Arafat orders probe into clashes but Hamas insists he own up responsibility

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Monday appointed a five-member judicial commission of inquiry to probe Friday's clashes in Gaza which left 16 Palestinians dead. Efforts meanwhile continued on arriving at a truce accord between the Palestinian self-rule authority and Islamic militants.

Arafat loyalists fired into the air and chanted against Muslim activists during a raily of over 10,000 people that Mr. Arafat billed a referendum in support of peace with Israei.

Islamic leaders, burying the 16th victims of factiona fighting, branded the rally a provocation likely to hurt a branded truce worked out by Israeli Arab mediators. Ordinary Gazans nervous-

ly watched public displays of firepower from both sides, fearing the impoverished strip is on the brink of civil

"We support democracy, but we need security and stability to build our state," Mr. Arafat told roaring sup-

WASHINGTON (Agencies)
— Israeli Prime Minister Yit-

zhak Rabin won assurances

Monday from President Bill-

Clinton on continued assist-

ance in funds and backing

amid the latest outbreak of

violence in the Middle East.

for current aid levels as well

as certain security assist-

ance," Mr. Clinton said at

the White House with Mr.

Rabin on day two of the

Israeli leader's four-day visit

"I reaffirmed my support

Israel wins U.S.

assurances of aid

City square.

"We will not allow anybody to sow disorders and we will not allow anyone to destroy what we have built," he

Mr. Arafat is seeking. broader public backing fol-lowing the bloody clashes outside a Gaza City mosque between his police and Islamic activists opposed to negotiating with Israel.

About 200 supporters of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, marched in the funeral procession of the 16th victim, Ata Kanan, 25, who died Monday of gunshot wounds in the head.

"Arafat is a killer. Instead of shooting at Israelis, he is shooting at our sons," his father Mohammad, 58, said, tears streaming down his face as the body was lowered into a grave next to 10 of the other

At the rally, Mr. Arafat, clearly elated by a crowd larger than the one that materialised for his arrival five months ago, encouraged supporters to tear down a

porters in a downtown Gaza fence and come within metres

AMMAN TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1994, JUMADA ALTHANIA 18, 1415

of the stage.

Before his speech, members of the Fateh Hawks, the underground armed band that had fought the Israeli occupation, circulated in the crowd wearing masks and firing their weapons in the air. Police occasionally joined in the firing.

Mr. Arafat's support among Fateh loyalists had been shaky in the Gaza Strip because he ignored street fighters when assigning key jobs in the autonomy government. Resurrecting them appeared to be an attempt to both shore up his own flank and to distance the ordinary police from the fight with the furtive Izzedine Al Qassam underground of Hamas.

"Arafat, Arafat we love you, no one can challenge you," the crowd chanted and 'Izzedine will not scare us because we have Fateh

Izzeddine Al Qassem said in a leaflet distributed in Gaza that it would attack self-rule officials and start a civil war unless those responsible for bloodshed Friday were tried and executed. Palestine National Authority (PNA) police, untrained in riot control, opened fire on stone-throwers outside the Palestine Mosque, an Islamic militant centre. Aside from the deaths, the clash and further rioting left 200

wounded. Ordinary Gazans were clearly distraught by the turn towards violence.

"What happened on Friday will happen again and again if all these weapons are not collected," said taxi driver Salameh Yajizi, 30. "It is a bad sign. We are heading towards a civil war that will only serve Israeli interests."

The tension between the two sides also was reflected in graffiti. "Arafat\*Goldstein" said a wall slogan, comparing the PNA president to the Jewish settler who massacred more than 30 Palestinians at a Hebron Mosque in February.

Graffiti outside Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar's house signed by Fateh said:

(Continued on page 3)

### Kuwait and Russia ... acsign cooperation deals

rdin announced Monday as he wound up official talks in

Mr. Clinton said he thought the United States had to continue to support Israel's security because it was a "precondition" for Israel being able to make peace with all its neighbours in the Middle East. Mr. Clinton said there had

to achieve this progress in the peace process," he said.

President Clinton also said

Monday he was open to the

idea of U.S. participation in a

peacekeeping force on the

Golan Heights.

been no discussion yet be-Mr. clinton said he had also guaranteed continued tween Israel and Syria of financing for the Arrow anti-U.S. forces in any missile system which the peacekeeping role on the Golan Heights, the territory Israel Aircraft Industries is developing.
The United States currentthat Syria wants Israel to return in exchange for peace.

ly pays for some 75 per cent But, he said that if asked, of the Arrow project, which he would make the case for was part of the scrapped Star U.S. participation to the U.S. Wars programme. Mr. Rabin thanked the Congress. "If we are asked by the parties themselves to president for his support and become involved sometime in said Israel would continue the future I will come to the Congress ... and make the case," Mr. Clinton said. negotiations with its Arab

neighbours, but he did not Senator Jesse Helms, Remention the recent crisis sparked by Friday's clashes publican of North Carolina, between Palestinian police indicated recently he and demonstrators which left opposed such participation. But Mr. Clinton, in an appa-"I am sure that without the rent reference to Mr. Helms' statement, said, "I don't United States' involvement and support under the leadthink I should say or doership of President Clinton it

(Continued on page 7)

KUWAIT (Agencies) — troop buildup near Kuwait. Kuwait and Russia have The U.S.-led allies rushed signed five agreements to reinforcements to the region bolster cooperation in va-rious fields, Russian Prime to prevent a repeat of the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of

the oil-rich emirate. Mr. Chernomyrdin, the first Russian prime minister to visit Kuwait, told reporters the agreements would encourage and protect joint investment and enhance cooperation in other areas such as

scientific research, culture, commerce and the mass media. "Russia has changed and we are changing too," said Mr. Chernomyrdin. "We have become more open for

representatives of this area ... I am sure that Kuwaiti businessmen will effectively and intensely take part in executing the major investment projects in the commonwealth of Russian states."

He reiterated his country's support for Kuwait and assured his hosts that Moscow will "continue its efforts that aim at the implementation of all Security Council resolutions." Last month, Russia's fore-

ign minister helped defuse the latest crisis in the Gulf that was sparked by Iraq's

Kuwaiti war prisoners that Kuwait says are still held in its jails since the seven-month occupation and pay reparations for damages it caused the emirate.

"We have supported and we will continue to support the Kuwaiti people," said Mr. Chernomyrdin.

He said his delegation also discussed issues related to "military cooperation and weapons purchases," but did

defence pact with Russia in Smerch rocket launchers

with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, his

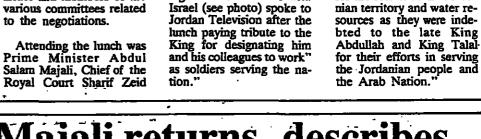
(Continued on page 7)

Baghdad later agreed to withdraw its troops and drop its historic claims to Kuwait in return for a Russian pledge to campaign for easing the four-year-old sanctions that have been stifling its eco-

Iraq still has to release 600 successful.

not elaborate. Kuwait signed a 10-year

November 1993. Its small military has bought BM-30 from Russia, and other deals are in the pipeline.



### Majali returns, describes Doha talks as highly fruitful

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Monday the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations

greets Minister of Information Jawad and members of the various committees to

Anani at a lunch the King hosted at that process which culminated in the Basman Palace in honour of the head and signing of the peace treaty between the members of the Jordanian delegation to two countries on Oct. 26 (Petra photo)

King honours peace negotiators

Ben Shaker, the King's advisors, the King's military

secretary and Royal Palace

Dr. Fayez Tarawneh who

led the Jordanian negotiat-

ing team to the talks with

# Joint statement underlines shared views. calls for enhanced ties, cooperation AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime from the Emir of Qatar to a full Israeli withdraw Minister Abdul Safam Majali His Majesty King Hussein all occupied Arab lar

returned home after a threeday visit to Qatar and described the outcome of his talks there as very positive and the visit as extremely

AMMAN (J.T.) — His

Majesty King Hussein on Monday hosted a lunch at

Basman Palace in honour

of the head and members

of the Jordanian delegation

to peace negotiations with

Israel and members of the

"My discussions with the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifeh Ben Hamad Al Thani, and other leaders proved that Qatar and Jordan hold identical views in various domains," he said in a statement to the Jordan News

Agency, Petra. The talks covered means to bolstered inter-Arab relations, the employment of Jordanian workers in Qatar and other issues of common concern," said Dr. Majali, stressing that Jordan's relations with the Gulf states were improving after the end

of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Mr. Chernomyrdin met Describing Jordanian-Qatari relations as excellent in all fields, Dr. Majali said he was carrying a message of affection and appreciation

from the Emir of Qatar to a full Israeli withdrawal from and Qatar's congratulations on the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace trea-

ty on Oct. 26. Dr. Majali said Qatar and Jordan agreed on the need for restoring solidarity among Arab states "in view of the very sensitive developments in the region."

Upon the conclusion of Dr. Majali's visit to Qatar, a joint communique was issued in Doha and Amman voicing the two countries' support for the Middle East peace process and expressing desire to see progress achieved on the Syrian-Israeli and the

Lebanese-Israeli tracks. The two countries pledged support for all efforts for a just and comprehensive peace that would end the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the Madrid conference and U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which call for the ex-

change of land for peace and

all occupied Arab lands, including the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, as well as Holy Jerusalem, and the restoration of Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

"We have done the job

in implementation of the

King's directives and

sought to serve the national

causes," said Dr. Taraw-neh. "Jordanians are all

indebted to King Hussein

for the return of the Jorda-

The communique said Dr. Majali's discussions in Doha covered bilateral cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields and the two sides stressed their desire to promote mutual programmes covering in particular trade. education, investments and agriculture.

They agreed that a joint Jordanian-Qatari committee should hold a meeting in Doha early next year to study ways of further ensuring bilateral cooperation.

The communique said the two sides exchanged views on Arab affairs and discussed means to reestablish solidarity in the Arab World.

They reaffirmed their determination to maintain

(Continued on page 7)

# Sexual harassment of women in public — time to speak out

Special to the Jordan Times THE YOUNG woman.

would be much more difficult

16 dead.

dressed in an Islamic garment which covers her body entirely, smiles at me with a mixture of astonishment and pity. "No. this never happens to me, never." she insists. Her friend, unveiled, nods, adding that "it only happens to those who provoke it, but not to

"Of course it happens, all the time," contends another university student. She wears a headscarf and a long skirt. "The lack of politeness and education does not distinguish between veiled and unveiled women." But, she continues, "you know, it is difficult for us to talk about it - because it is always the woman who will be blamed, not the man."

Sexual harassment of women in public is evidently a subject all but easy to talk about, although a considerable amount of women, foreign and Jorda-nian alike, feel disturbed by it and consider it a limitation to their freedom of moving in public.

"Of course some will maintain that raising the subject gives a bad image of Jordan," says Samira, a student of history at the University of Jordan. "But I think we should be strong and self-assured enough to speak openly about our good and bad sides."

Many women underline that the majority of men behave decently, but that the minority which harasses women is big enough to make them feel uneasy in "They stare at you, they

talk, they walk behind you, close up and try to touch you with their shoulder," says Samira. "It never ends. They ask: What is this yellow, what is this red? They comment on my dress, my perfume, my glasses, even my books — everything."

Single male car drivers, stopping beside her when she walks to the bus stop, get on Samira's nerves, but groups of young and middle-aged men driving around by car are particularly annonying, she says.

They drive very slowly while you're walking along, offering you a ride, sweets and often more than that. No way to chase them away. Once, a man got off the car and followed me all the way to Shmeisani. I felt extremely uncomfortable." It is difficult to assess the

dimension of sexual harassment against women in Jordan. Sexual harassment is punishable according to law No. 320 of Jordan's penal code, which forbids any enforced physical approach or insult of either women or men in public, the maximum sentence being a fine of JD50 or six months of imprisonment. But although a small per-centage of sexual harass-

ment cases are reported to

police, official data from the criminal investigation department were not available upon request. Scientific studies about

sexual harassment in public do not exist so far, although efforts to collect relevant data have been made. In 1993, a sociologist from the University of Jordan, carrying out a re-search on workfing women, drew up a questionnaire which included a question about sexual harassment in the workplace.

"When we submitted the questionnaire to the authorities for approval, this question was not cleared, saying this phenomenon did not exist in Jordan." says Arwa Al Amiri, a professor of experimental psychology at the Universi-ty of Jordan, who supervised the study.

Meanwhile, journalistic research proves that female students and working women are particularly subject to sexual harass-

published recently by the Jordanian weekly Al Ufuq (Horizon) quoted a number of female secretaries as saying that they had been harassed by their male employers.

Some said they had been

offered an increased salary for special services, others said their employers had asked them to put on weight to be "more beautiful' or to use a certain type of make-up or dress. interview," says a 23-year-

"I once went for a job old secretary who works with a private company. "The boss asked me if I was ready to stay overtime. He also asked me to take a shower every morning before I go to work. When I left, he slapped me on the back. Of course, I did not take the job."

Many people, including women, tend to consider secretaries "loose women," ready to do anything for money. In fact, a majority by Al Ufuq said they would quit their job if they did not need the money so badly.

Asma Khader, head of the Jordanian's Woman's Union, estimates that half of all working women get harassed at one time or another. "But I am sure that not even five per cent of all cases are reported to police and much less are taken to court," she says.

If sexual harassment is reported at all, Ms. Khader adds, it is rarely the woman herself who takes legal action, but rather a third party who has witnessed the attack, be it verbal or

Female university students say that harassment outside campus is more fre-quent than inside. But due to the strong gender seg-regation still prevalent in some parts of Jordanian society and in many schools, university is often the first time that men mix with women on a regular

"Sometimes a male student will stare at you in class, rather than listen to what the professor says," says Amal, a second-year law student. When you signal to him that you dis-like it, he won't stop. On the contrary, in many cases he will continue staring

even more asiduously." Asked by a psychology professor why men do approach women like this, a number of male university students answered "be-cause the girls like it." Indeed, it is often not easy to draw the line between a flirt and harassment. 'Within a certain range, the same action can either be interpreted as harassment or as a flirt," says Haya Dajani, a sociologist working at a private research institute. "Sexual harassment is to some extent a relative concept. Whether a male-female in-

(Continued on page 7)

# Peace not yet a watershed for Palestinian agriculture

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israeli exploitation of water sources in the West Bank coupled with restrictions placed on Palesti-nian use of water have severely curtailed the options of the Palestinians in developing agriculture, their mainstay vocation, an Amman meeting was told Monday.

Erratic rains have become the main source of water for the Palestinian farming community in a land once known as one of the most fertile in Middle East, Palestinian experts told a seminar entitled "Optimisation of Water in Agriculture.

The experts, representing institutions not affiliated with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho, presented a very bleak picture of the agriculture situation in the West Bank, more than one year after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed their historic

autonomy agreement.
Shawkat Sarsour, an agriculture engineer with the Jerusalem-based Palestine Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC), a nongovernmental voluntary agency, briefly outlined the main features of agriculture in the West Bank. But, he explained, most of the figures he cited were estimates since the Palestinians had little means to collect more accurate data under occupation.

Mr. Sarsour said the total area of Palestinian land Israel occupied in the 1967 war, including Jerusalem, was 6,440 square kilometres, and the Jewish state has either

yet to see any, residents said.

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**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

DUBAI (R) — Prayers for rain in an unusually parched

Saudi Arabia were held throughout the mostly desert

kingdom after sunrise on Monday, the Saudi news agency

said. King Fahd urged Saudis last week to pray for rain "due to the delay of rainfall." Winter rains are normally

expected by the end of October with the main rainfall

usually falling in November. But the port city of Jeddah,

which should get two centimetres of rain in November, had

NICOSIA (R) - Iran said its Revolutionary Guards have

wiped out two notorious drugs gangs in a major crackdown on traffickers who it said had held hundreds of people as

slaves in the remote mountains of southeast Iran. The

official news agency IRNA late on Sunday quoted

Brigadier-General Qasem Soleymani as saying one of the

gang leaders, Jalal Kamrani, had "terrorised the local

people, and was holding as slaves 200 men and 300

women." It said Mr. Kamrani's 80-member gang had links

with drug smuggling rings in nearby Afghanistan and

Pakistan. Another gang led by Eidook Barneri was also

annihilated in the operation which restored security in the

region, in mountains close to Kerman some 1,000 kilometres southeast of Tehran, the agency said. "So

relieved were the people that they held rejoicings for two

days on hearing of the annihilation of Kamrani's gang," it

quoted Gen. Soleymani as saying. IRNA said weapons

seized by the guards during the operation included 140 Kalashnikov assault rifles, 10 machineguns, five rocket-

MUSCAT (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on Monday expressed support for a recent call by Sultan Qaboos for greater cooperation among Gulf states

in the interest of regional stability. Talking to reporters at the airport upon arrival in Oman, Mr. Velayati said this

was a call that "we welcome and one to which we always

give our attention." Mr. Velayati was on the second leg of a

tour that began in Yemen on Sunday, when he declared

that Iran sought cooperation with its neighbours. He

welcomed Iraq's recognition of Kuwait as "a positive step"

and said he hoped all problems among Gulf States would

be solved through dialogue. He was scheduled to travel to

Qatar after Oman. Mr. Velayati was accompanied by a

large delegatiaon of Iranian businessmen seeking to prom-

ote trade ties and investments among regional states.

propelled grenades, rocket launchers and other arms.

Velayati in Oman after Yemen

Saudis pray for rain after delay

per cent of this area as closed

The total area of cultivated land in the West Bank is 175,000 hectares (1,75,000 dunums) and in the Gaza Strip 18,000 hectares (180,000 dunums), he said. Agriculture accounts for

about 20 per cent of the Palestinians' gross domestic product (GDP) and employs one fifth of the Palestinian labour force. The bulk of the agricultural land is rainfed, a natural result of the denial or restricted access to water for irrigation purposes:

The overall features of the land, the different climates, the availability of experienced personnel and, above everything, the Palestinians attachment to their land make it highly possible that in a state of freedom of options and access to water, the Palestinians would be able to develop their farming sector quite well, Mr. Sarsour said.

"The lack of water poses one of the major obstacles for expanding the areas of irrigated land since water monitoring and planning is linked directly to the Israeli occupation authorities," said Mr.

According to Mohammad Al Tourshan, another PARC engineer. Israel is using about 80 per cent of the replenishable water in the West Bank to serve Israeli towns and cities while denying the Palestinians any right to dig new wells and limiting the amount of water that the Palestinians could pump from existing wells.

Excessive digging by Israel also affects the productivity of springs," another

Palestinians, and increases the salinity of water available from the springs, Mr. Sarsour

Many of the water wells in the Jordan Valley have been closed by the Israelis citing "security reasons," he said.

Figures made available to the Jordan Times showed that the West Bank holds water resources that could safely yield around 600 million cubic metres of water every year but the 1.2 million Palestinians in the West Bank get about 120 million cubic metres per year. The 120,000 settlers the West Bank consume 65 million cubic metres and Israel pumps the rest to beyond the "green line."

The per capita consumption of water among Israeli Jews is 13 times more than the Palestinians in the West Bank, which meets 25 per cent of the Jewish state's overall water needs.

Seven-five per cent of water used in Israel (1,700 million cubic metres per year) is consumed by the agricultural sector (1,275 million cubic metres) while the Palestinian farming community uses 57 per cent (70 million cubic metres) of its total annual water consumptison (123 million cubic metres) for agricul-

Israel uses five per cent for industrial purposes (85 million cubic metres) while the Palestinian use four per cent (five million cubic metres).

Domestic consumption in Israel (340 million cubic metres) accounts for 20 per cent of the Jewish state's annual use while the Palestinians use 39 per cent (48

As a result of Israeli curbs, the Palestinians, despite the fertility of their soil, have come to depend on Israel for half of their needs of agri-cultural production, said Mr.

The Palestinians also depend on Israel for more than 80 per cent of their needs of fertilisers and pesticides used in agriculture, and the in-creased prices of these items in Israel also raises the cost of agricultural production in the West Bank to relatively higher levels but still cheaper than

Esrael itself.
Palestinian produce sales to Israeli buyers who pay higher prices result in shortages in the West Bank, said Mr. Tourshan.

In view of the present situation, which will hopefully be addressed in the final status negotiations between the PNA and Israel, the Palestinians have to look for options that include the use wastewater after treatment, building small dams, shifting agricultural patterns to less water-consuming crops and using modern irrigation methods, Mr. Sar-

No significant studies have been made of the options; nor is any estimate of the costs involved.

The PARC was established in 1982 by a group of Palestinian agricultural engineers who sought to offer what they could to improve the agriculture situation in the West Bank. It maintains offices in many towns in the West Bank and depends on returns from cooperative projects and external aid.

### **Experts study Chepren** pyramid for renovation

CAIRO (AFP) — Nine Egyptian and Italian archeological experts have climbed the 4,500-year-old Chepron Pyramid to inspect damage from a 1992 earthquake and natural decay, an Italian diplomat said Friday.

Seven Italians and two Egyptians scaled the 136meter high pyramid Friday to its iou said Giovanni Valenza, technical advisor at the Italian embassy here.

"The idea is to see first hand the situation... for restoration to avoid the collapse of the most unstable stones." Mr. Valenza said, adding that the climb should last about a

The sarcophagus of Chephren, who ruled ancient Egypt during the fourth dynasty (2620-2575 B.C.), was discovered in 1818 by Giovanni Battista Belzoni, an Italian amateur explorer.

With a base of 210 metres, the Chepren pyramid is the second largest of the three Giza pyramids, in the suburbs of Cairo. The largest is the great Pyramid of Cheops Chephren's father which stands at 137 metres

and has a base of 230 metres. Chepren is the only Giza praymid to have retained parts of its original limestone

casing at its top. Unlike other ancient Egyptian pyramids, Chephren was built with stones of various sizes and types which has led to deterioration, Mr. Valenza

"Some stones are protruding without any support bebeen washed away or blown

In addition, the 5.4 Richter scale earthquake that rocked Cairo in 1992 damaged the pyramid's tip.

seen with binoculars from the foot of the pyramid.

support underneath them," he said, adding the support not cement.

examine the possibility of lar to those used by firemen for repovations. The staircase will include a

conveyor belt to transport materials needed for renovation work, Mr. Valenza said.

They will also draw up a "scientific document" of the pyramid's surfaces, which can used by Egyptian antiquities officials for future restoration projects, Mr. Valen-

The full study should take

The Italian team's work comes as part of a larger project to help in the restoration of two other ancient Egyptian monuments damaged in the earthquake: the Al Ghurri mosque in Cairo's Islamic district, and the Cop-tic Mo'alaka Church, Mr.

away," he said.

"Some slabs (of limestone) on top rotated when the earthquake struck," Mr. Valenza said, adding that the damage was so obvious it could be

The stones need "a little should be limestone "like the ancient Egyptians used," and The archeologists will also

constructing a staircase simi-

about two months, after which the Egyptian government will get renovation work underway, he said.

**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR** 



## Gazans slip further into poverty

Poverty has deepened in the Gaza Strip since self-rule began six months ago, creating a powderkeg situation that helps explain Friday's explosion of violence in the terri-

Fifteen people were killed in clashes in Gaza City between the fundamentalist group Hamas, which opposes peace with Israel, and police of the new Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The hard economic times, says Palestinian economist Samir Abdullah, "can only favour extremists and opponents of the peace process."

One of the main problems is Israel's periodic closure of the territory, as was the case after a suicide bombing attack in downtown Tel Aviv

The sealing of the Strip prevents tens of thousands of Palestinians who work in Israel from reporting for their low-paid jobs. Only 14,000 residents of the strip are now allowed to work in Israel, down from more than 50,000

The Israeli punishment is all the more painful for Gazans because half of the Strip's revenue comes from Palestinians who work in

"The middle class is becoming the proletariat, and it is essential to fight unemployment, but we are still waiting for investment," said another economist, Salah Abdul Sha-

Western countries have pledged \$700 million in development aid for this year but have delivered only \$100 million, partly out of concern over the PNA's ability to run the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The two areas became autonomous in May under the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord signed in September of last

"The lack of money has delayed the start of jobcreating development projects and in paying the 9,000 members of the new Palestinian police force, who for three months have received

only a small part of their salary," said Abdullah, a member of a Palestinian economic development commission. To make things worse,

wealthy Palestinians living abroad are wary of investing because of the unstable situation in Gaza. The United States said the

violence Friday was an alarm signal showing the desperate need for the promised aid funds to be disbursed. Egyptian President Hosni

Mubarak also painted a grim picture. "In Gaza there are no jobs, no infrastructure, no health care. If it continues, no one will be able to convince people to remain calm," he said. Israeli Foreign Minister

Shimon Peres echoed this view, saying Sunday that economic development through international aid was the only way to fight what he called terrorists.

The health situation has become so precarious that cholera broke out recently, and authorities have reported 45 cases so far.

tional relief organisations say they are having an increasingly hard time meeting the demand for assistance. The World Food Programme, a U.N. agency, says that since July it has dealt with 28,000 cases of people in abject poverty, providing them with

flour, rice and sugar. "Poverty no longer touches only the families of workers who cannot make their living in Israel any more, but also farmers," one programme official said.

Hazem Sarraj, an official responsible for distributing aid collected from Muslim charities, estimated that 60.000 Palestinian families were living below the poverty

"We are overwhelmed because we can only subsidise 2,000 needy families," he

In recent months, the U.N. refugee agency dealing with the Palestinians has added 12,000 families to its list of emergency aid recipients.

## Canada caught up in Somalia scandal

Jeffrey Ulbrich The Associated Press

TORONTO - Late one sultry evening just outside a bone-dry town in Somalia's western desert, soldiers from Canada's elite Airborne regiment methodically beat, kicked and tortured a 16year-old civilian captive until

he died.

Twenty months and eight courts-martial later, only one soldier, a private, has received significant punishment. Now, a military doctor who was in Belet Huen, Somalia, on the night of March 16, 1993, is alleging a cover-up by senior Canadian military officers.

The charges, the trials, the whole sordid story of what happened during the Air-borne Regiment's stint with the U.N. intervention force in Somalia has tarnished the image of the world's premier peackeeping nation. It also has dampened the morale of many professionals who feel that 40 years of success in peacekeeping, a concept de-veloped by Canada, is being

obscured by one incident. Under mounting pressure, Defence Minister David Collenette announced on Thursday that a public inquiry will be held into the conduct of the Canadian forces in Soma-

"The stories are concentrating on everything from cover-up at the very top right down to individuals on the ground conducting activities that should have been stop-

mand," said retired Major-General Lewis Mackenzie, who once commanded U.N. forces, in Sarajevo.

Alex Morrison, executive director of the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies, said the killing in Belet Huen "will have a great impact on future preparations for peacekeeping." Well-informed Canadian

recognise that incident for what it is — regrettable, obscene and sorry — but they place it in the overall context of the Canadian armed forces," Mr. Morrison said. The Canadian Airborne

Regiment went into Belet Huen in December 1992 as part of the American-led U.N. intervèntion force. Three Somalis shot and killed in separate incidents during the tour. A fourth, Shidane Arone, was captured and beaten to death.

The story, as it emerged in courts-martial and reconstruction by journalits: The Canadians were hav-

ing trouble with looters atr their compound. The Airborne's commander. Lieutenant-Colonel Carol Mathieu, gave permission to shoot infiltrators in the legs if they refused to stop, Major Anthony Seward authorised the men to "abuse" prisoners caught sneaking into the camp in order to discourage

Shidane was captured about 9 p.m. on March 16, 1993, and became a victim of

was tied and blindfolded. Master Corporal Clayton Matchee beat him with his fists, a truncheon, and eventually a metal bar. He put a pistol to Shidane's head and used a small cigar to burn his feet.

Pvt. Elvin Kyle Brown participated briefly, striking Shidane in the jaw once and kicking him several times. Pvt. Brown then took photographs of the bloody Shidane and Col. Matchee.

More than a dozen enlisted men stopped at the pit to look. Dozens more, including officers, heard Shidane's screams. Nobody stopped it.

Col. Matchee was arrested March 18. Later that day, he was found hanging in his cell. He was cut down alive, but suffered such brain damage he was found unfit to stand Pvt. Brown was court-

martialed and found guilty of manslaughter and torture. He was dismissed from the army "with disgrace" and sentenced to five years in

Col. Mathieu was acquitted of negligent performance of duty. Maj. Seward was convicted of negligent performance of duty and given a severe reprimand. Sergeant Marc Boland pleaded guilty to negligent performance of duty, was jailed 90 days and demoted to private. All others were acquitted. Capt.

He was taken to a bunker Michael Sox, who passed called "the pit," where he along the "abuse" order, is awaiting trial. Over the next three hours, Maj. Barry Armstrong, a military surgeon, claimed last

week that senior officers issued orders to destroy evidence about violence against civilians, including Shidane's death. He did not name the officers but said military police were aware of the orders. He said he refused to obey them and has evidence locked in a safe.

Maj. Armstrong also claimed that a Somali infiltrator killed on March 4, 1993, was shot in the back of the head, "execution style." Nobody was charged in that death.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien's Liberals, then in opposition, accused the Conservatives of a cover-up, saying they were trying to protect Defence Minister Kim Campbell, who then was seeking leadership of the Conservative Party.

Shidane's death was not officially announced for two weeks and then only after it was reported by the news

Speculation that the Airborne was a rogue unit gone wild has largely been dismis-

Still, said Mr. Morrison, a former army colonel, "it's a very highly disciplined unit with a high sense of esprit de corps. Leaders are every vigiliant that this sense of uni pride doesn't boil over. Bell in this case it did."

#### **JORDAN TELEVISION** Tcl- 773111.10

| 161. 7.2111-12                    |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| PROGRAMME TWO                     |  |  |  |  |
| 17:00 Alice Au Pays De Merveilles |  |  |  |  |
| 17:39 Un Pour Tous                |  |  |  |  |
| 18:00 Embarquement Porte          |  |  |  |  |
| 18:39 Le Vent Des Moissons        |  |  |  |  |
| 19:00 News in French              |  |  |  |  |
| 19:45 Varities                    |  |  |  |  |
| 19:30 F.B.I. The Untold Stories   |  |  |  |  |
| 20:30 Ouantum Leap                |  |  |  |  |
| 21:10 Cracking The Code           |  |  |  |  |
| 22:00 News in English             |  |  |  |  |
| 22:20 The House of Eliott         |  |  |  |  |
| 23:10 Fly By Night                |  |  |  |  |
|                                   |  |  |  |  |

### **PRAYER TIMES**

| 64:44  |
|--|
| 14:14 'Asr<br>16:38 Maghreb                          |
| 17:59¹lsha   |
| CHURCHES   |
| St. Mary of Nazareth Church<br>Sweifieh, Tcl. 810740 |

### Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tcl. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tcl. 637440. De la Saile Church Tcl. 661757 Terrasancia Church Tcl: 622366 Church of the Ammunication Tcl. Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.

#### Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. alan Orthodox Church Tel. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. 652526. elical Lutheran Church Tel: 82-325. German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel.675691. The Evangelical Local Church In

#### A<del>nnese</del> Tel. 811295. WEATHER

| Bulletin supplied by the Depa<br>ment of Meteorology.         | H |
|---|---|
| A cold air mass will cross t<br>Kingdom today, thus temperatu |   |

will drop steadily with skies becoming cloudy. Rain is expected to fall
with winds southeasterly active. In
Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy
wint a chance of showers. Winds

| Min./Max. temp.        | . 101  |
|------------------------|--------|
| Aqaba<br>Deserts       | 16/2   |
| Jordan Valley          | 14/2   |
| Vesterday's high tempe | rature |

## Amman 16, Aqaba 26, Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent. Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### **NIGHT DUTY** AMMAN: Dr. Yousef Sammour ...... Dr. Khaldoun Kloub ...... Dr. Issam Asmar ... Dr. Rizq Abu Zinah Al Asema pharmac Nairoukh pharmacy Al Salam pharmacy Yacoub pharmacy Shmeisani pharmacy 636730

ZARQA: Dr. Misbah Hijjawi ....

#### **EMERGENCIES** Food Control Centre ....... 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111

| Civil Defence Immediate                                 |           |
|---|-----------|
| Rescue 6  | 30341     |
| Civil Defence Emergency                                 | 199       |
| Civil Defence Emergency<br>Rescue Police 192, 621111, 6 | 37777     |
| Fire Brigade 6  | 17101     |
| Blood Bank 7  | 75121     |
| Highway Police  |           |
| Traffic Police 8  | MAZOI1    |
| Public Security Department                              | A30271    |
| Hotel Complaints 6                                      | COUNT     |
| Protei Complaints                                       |           |
| Price Complaints 6                                      | 101 I 100 |
| Water and Sewerage                                      |           |
| Complaints 8  | 347467    |
| Complaints 8 Amman Municipality                         |           |
| Complaints  | 787111    |
| Telephone Information<br>(directory assistance)         |           |
| (directory assistance)                                  | . 121     |
| Overseas Calls  | 11/12/20  |
|   | 110230    |
| Central Amman Telephone                                 |           |
| Repairs 6   | 33101     |
| Abdali Telephone Repairs 6                              | i61101    |
| Repairs   | 73111     |
| Radio Jordan  | 774111    |
| Water Authority   | Sent (A)  |
| Jordan Electricity Authority                            |           |
| TOTAL EXCEPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF                      | 315615    |
|   | CIOCIC    |
| Electric Power  |           |
| Company 6   | 36381     |
|   |           |

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital ...... (09)986732
Al Hikms Modern Hospital (09)99090

#### RJ Flight Information .... 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200 **HOSPITALS**

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. University Hospital 845845 Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37 Al-Ahli, Ahdali 664164/6 Italian. Al-Muhajroen ... 777 [0]/3 Al-Bashir. J. Ashrafieh 775111/26 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital

#### Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272:75 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ....... (02)247100 AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital ...... (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (18),5220-5, where it should always be veri-

**QUEEN ALIA** 

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Terminal 1) 64:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 07:30 ...... Damascus (RJ)

#### Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) 97:40 Dhahran (RJ) 99:15 Aqaba (RJ) 99:55 Abu Dhabi (RJ) 99:55 Mascar Dubai (RJ) 18:15 Daba Rahssir (PJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2) 85:45 ...... Damascus, Paris (AF) 10:15 ..... Lamaca, Rome (AZ) 13:50 ..... Vienna (OS)

DEPARTURES

(Terminal 1)

Flights

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

#### 21:00 Aden (DY) 00:20 Amsterdam (KU) 00:50 Bucharest (RO) HIJAZ RAILWAY Other Flights (Terminal 2)

#### TRAIN MARKET PRICES

Upperlower price in fils per kg.

| 07:80 Aqaba (RJ) 08:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 11:90 Montreal, Toronto (RJ) 11:95 Vicence Part (RJ) 11:96 Clamentine 350 2 |
|---|
|---|

His Majesty King Hussein Monday visits

the headquarters of Royal Jordanian (RJ)

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday said the national air car-

, crease in air transport move-

ment to and from the region.

quarters, King Hussein said

competition in the air trans-

port sector will also increase.

part of the flag carrier to

improve services and mod-

The King stressed the need

for RI to deal flexibly with

the expected challenges and

day participated in a working

session of the Conference on

Early Childhood Education,

entitled "Toward an Educa-

tional Philosophy for Pre-

school Children in Jordan,"

according to a Royal Court

(Continued from page 1)

Fatch zealots will chop off

the heads of conspirators'

and accused Al Zahar of

accepting money from Iran, a

charge Mr. Arafat echoed at

the rally.
Israeli Arab mediators

attempted to find a formula

to prevent future violence

that included compensation

to the families of the dead

The PNA said the agree-ment was incomplete. Hamas

leaders did not sign an agree-

ment because they want Mr. Arafat to publicly accept re-sponsibility for the bloodshed

until an investigation deter-

mines blame.
"He is still refusing to be

held responsible for the Fri-

day incident. So no real

agreement between us and

the PLO has been made."
Mr. Zahar told the AP.

He said it was a provoca-

tion to allow armed men to

fire at random at the rally when such gunfire was at the

root of the problem. "What

we witnessed today is an escalation against us," he

and wounded.

Fatch flexes muscles in Gaza

During a visit to RJ head-

Rosel Jardaneh (right) and the carrier's Majali

SUES.

LIMI

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farmers the programs gritti AFF official 👾 📒 C. TH. Histori thu cugh Alles W. ... Coll Mark ·ml+

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क्षिक पुर hidano أخربه وأإور ist p. inter: Janes शुक्रदी ११ं i seeker i des de ne cel sy, but jamace ziam l

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Harem Source on other noting that this requires more responsible for distributed and collected from Mass preparation and effort on the charitie ertimated in emise its fleet of aircraft. were her wife on the poen Win his contributional

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toute it de di Prime V : :| 4 × ···· person of . V:4 112 11 or a second untin eil

spokesperson. "The conference was held under the patronage of the Queen and was organised by Buch to the National Association for 4.5 the Education of the Child. Queen Noor is the honorary president of the association, which was established in 1986 under the umbrella of the Noor Al Hussein Foundanon (NHF) with the aim of . . . . . . improving childhood prog-1000

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her rammes and services.

Majesty Queen Noor Mon
Later, said the spok Later, said the spokesperson, the Queen opened a school for young children with cerebral palsy, a physical disorder characterised by impaired motor skills.

Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday chats kindergarten and first grade youngsters

with children at a school she opened for with cerebral palsy (Petra photo)

Queen participates in working session

of early childhood education meeting

The school, which currently consists of a kindergarten and first grade, was established by the Cerebral Palsy Foundation in order to promore the integration of youngsters with the disorder into the mainstream educational system. The foundation plans to expand the school in the future by adding facilities for second graders; the

spokesperson said. Commenting on the desira-bility of realising the poten-

bral Palsy Foundation. lence, did not refer by name to the fundamentalists, but said "some people want the

tial of these children, Queen

Noor said that she is "proud

and impressed by the founda-

tion's continuing contribution

to the education of cerebral

palsy students," according to

She also stressed how im-

portant it is that the work of

this new facility be seen by

public and private school teachers," as it is a clear

example of the unlimited

potential these students

have," the spokesperson

Her Majesty was received

by the foundation's presi-

dent, Fakhry Bilbeisi and the

board members of the Cere-

the Royal Court.

Israeli communist party leader Mohammad Barak. leading mediation efforts, said Mr. Arafat and representatives of the main militant groups — Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - had agreed to be victorious." work together to avoid furth-

er bloodshed. Mr. Barak said the deal did not provide for the disarming of the fundamentalists or an end to anti-Israeli attacks from within the Gaza Strip or from the West Bank town of Jericho, which is also under

Palestinian control. Mr. Arafat charged that the fundamentalists who clashed with his policemen had planned the confrontation and received their orders from abroad.

The main Palestinian human rights group, Al Haq, charged that the police had opened fire indiscriminately and urged Mr. Arafat's self-rule authority to ban the "use of lethal force" in demonstra-

tions. Mr. Arafat, who named a five-man judicial committee to investigate Friday's vio-

march (of peace) to stop."

He vowed that only Fateh would carry on the "Palestinian people's struggle" for a state with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital. "The way is long and hard, but we will

Meanwhile, the authority released 10 Islamic Jihad members who had been held for 10 days, bringing to 40 the number freed from the 150 rounded up after a suicide bombing which killed three Israeli soldiers on Nov. 11.

The PNA on Sunday also freed 31 of 50 Hamas militants. In Cairo, a senior Palestine

Liberation Organisation official has blamed the Israeli intelligence service Mossad for the Gaza clashes. "I can guarantee that ele-ments of Mossad stirred up"

the clashes, Faroug Kad-doumi said in the Egyptian weekly Al Arabi published Monday.
"The Palestinian people will not allow anybody to drag them into a civil war,"

pledged the PLO's political

department chief.

### Government to start planning diversional dam. to collect Yarmouk River water — minister

from the lake during the sum-

Following that, he added, Jordan would begin on stu-

dies for the other dams in-

cluded in the peace treaty.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will soon begin plans for the construction of a small diversional dam to collect water from the Yarmouk River flowing towards Jordan and Israel as stipulated in the Jordanian-Israel peace treaty, according to Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Irsheidat Monday.
The minister said in a state-

ment to the press that the project aims at enabling Jordan to acquire its lawful share of the Yarmouk River water as agreed to with Israel, expressing hope that the project would be completed by the Middle of 1995 to make available 25 million cubic metres of additional water annually.

President and Chief Executive Officer,

Nader Dahabi left. The meeting was

ecutive Officer Nader Dahabi

briefed the King on the car-

rier's operations and its fu-

ture plans to the year 2000.

He also outlined operational

plans for the post-peace trea-

After the meeting, King Hussein distributed certifi-

cates of appreciation to per-

sonnel who spent more than

30 years in the service of

At the end of the visit, Mr.

Dahabi presented the King

with a token gift on behalf of

RJ on the occasion of his 59th

birthday which was cele-

Royal Jordanian.

brated on Nov. 14

and meets with RJ chairman of the Board attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam

King visits RJ headquarters;

reviews new air transport era

to swiftly interact with de-

velopments to increase its

share in the air transport and

accompanied on the visit by

Prime Minister Abdul Salam

Majali, voiced his confidence

in and support for the admi-

nistration and personnel of

of Directors Basel Jardaneh

welcomed the King at the

outset of the meeting and

underlined the preparedness

of RJ for the coming stage,

stressing its role in supporting

RJ President and Chief Ex-

the national economy.

RJ Chairman of the Board

King Hussein, who was

tourism markets.

the carrier.

Under Annex II of the peace treaty signed last month, Jordan will get 12 million cubic metres (MCM) from the Yarmouk River during the summer from May 15 until Oct. 15 and 13 MCM during the winter from Oct. 16 until May 14.

Dr. Irsheidat said that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation was starting to work on design plans, and tender documents and is also starting efforts to ensure funds to finance the project through the Ministry of Planning. Upon execution of the project, Dr. Irsheidat said the ministry would then work to improve and mend the King Abdullah Canal and install a pipeline to draw water from

Lake Tiberias. He explained that under

These will be constructed on the treaty provisions, Jordan is to get 20 MCM more water the Jordan River at the point of confinence between the

help it overcome its water problems under the new era of Jordan's water resources are meagre and limited, and a great deal of the available water is lost because of several reasons, primarily misuse, thus seriously impacting on the Kingdom's sustainable development programmes, said the

Pointing out that the average use of water for irrigation in third world countries stands at around 70 per cent, Dr.

As an example he cited water consumption in Jordan in 1993 as totalling 983 MCM. He said this amount was consumed for various purposes, and 736 MCM of the total

resources, but also to implement methods to improve water use in irrigation and to adopt agricultural patterns which economise on water use and result in very high economic

French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajolet addres-

Yarmouk and Jordan rivers. Jordan at an estimated cost of Meanwhile, Water Au-JD 200 million. thority of Jordan (WAJ) Secretary General Qusay Queishat said in a statement

Mr. Qteishat said that so far WAJ has replaced the old networks of Irbid and Zarqa Monday that the NAT was and is working on those in Ramtha. He said the water proceeding with plans for the replacement of the old water network in Mafraq would be networks in different areas of

#### of water conservation Experts take up urgency

AMMAN (Petra) — In a related topic, Dr. Irsheidat also Monday called for increased international aid to Jordan to

minister in an address at the opening session of a regional conference on water conservation in farming.

Irsheidat said that in Jordan 75 per cent of available water resources is being utilised for this purpose as the country depends heavily on agriculture.

went into farming. Jordan is in need of help not only to ensure fresh water

yields, said the minister.

sed the opening session underlining the importance of the seminar and the topics on its agenda. That France and the European Union (EU) are participating in the conference reflects the importance they attach to discussions on water issues and on the exchange of

expertise in farming, said the ambassador.
Secretary General of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Hashem Shboul underlined that Jordan was expected to face growing demands on water in the future in light of the country's expansion in development projects.

According to Mohammad Shatanawi, head of the University of Jordan's Centre on Water Studies and Research, the need to replace the country's outdated and damaged water networks was urgent and the completion of this task would save water for the growing demands of the increas-

ing populations. Organised by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in cooperation with the University of Jordan and the European Union (EU), the meeting discusses water and irrigation policies in the Arab World, water plans and uses in Jordan, management of water resources, drip irrigation

techniques, waste water recycling and other relevant issues. Six Arab and seven foreign countries including some in the European Union as well as several international organisations are taking part in the meeting.

# Jordan, Egypt agree to lay

and Egypt Monday signed an agreement in Cairo to lay an underwater cable linking the two countries as part of an overall project of linking the two countries' power grids.

Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Maher Abaza said the 13-kilometre cable will be set by a Norwegian company at a depth of 850 metres under the Aqaba

The 400-kilovolt cable will be laid in cooperation with Jordanian and Egyptian firms which sub-contract with the Norwegian company, according to Mr. Abaza.

He said the power linkage project is aimed at helping the two countries meet any electric energy shortages.

The deal was signed by Jordan Electricity Authority

(JEA) Director General Mohammad Arafeh and 120 ADOUUAN of the Egyptian Electricity Corporation.

The project is funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

AFESD President Abdul Latif Al Hamad said the 240 million Egyptian pounds (JD 48 million) project is significant since it links Asia with Africa and paves the way for linkages with other countries in the two continents.

The Norwegian commany's contract is worth \$70 million and a \$1.5 million contract has been awarded to a Turkish firm to carry out civil works and towers connected to the project, according to Mr. Arafeh:

He told the Jordan Times in an interview last August, that fordan was working on expanding its linkage with the network of Syria which in turn is being connected with that of Turkey as part of a five-country agreement signed early this year grouping Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Turkey.

### Rawabdeh discusses educational joint underwater power cable cooperation with Qatari crown prince DOHA (Petra) - Minister of

Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Monday met in here with Oatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifeh Al Thani and reviewed Jordanian-Qatari relations with particular focus on education. Mr. Rawabdeh, who ar-

rived in Doha Sunday on an official visit for talks on promoting educational cooperation, reviewed with Sheikh Hamad, who is also minister of defence, an existing programme of cooperation in educational fields. The meeting was in the presence of Qatari Minister of Education Abdul. Aziz Turki and Jordan's ambassador to Qatar, Trad Al Fayez.

Earlier Mr. Rawabdeh talks with Mr. Turki and his senioir assistants and said in a statement that brotherly ties are being strengthened through education, the secondment of I Jordanian teachers and other dated in 1979, in 1982 and work of its research centre.

Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh

exchanges which, he said, lie at the foundation of uniting the Arab World.

Mr., Turki lauded. Jordanian-Qatari relations, stressing Doha's determination to enhance cooperation in educational and cultural

fields. He said Jordan and Qatar ment in 1972 which was up-

1987; and these were implemented through executive programmes which continue to run until 1996.

Furthermore, bilateral agreements between Qatar's university and Yarmouk University and the University of Jordan aim at bolstering cultural ties, added Mr. Tur-

The talks covered the implementation of educational protocols that cover cooperation in educational, scientific and cultural fields.

Seconding Jordanian teachers to Qatar, cooperation in curricula and examinations and the training of teachers, the exchange of scholarships and visits by educational supervisors as well as books and publications were on the agenda.

Mr. Rawabbdeh also Monday visited Qatar University. meeting with its president had signed a cultural agree- and other officials to learn about programmes and the

#### **HOME NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Prince Abdullah opens Jordan week in Casablanca

CASABLANCA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein Monday opened Jordanian Week in Casablanca, an event which is organised by the Jordanian Exports Development and Trade Centres Corporation (JEDIC) in cooperation with the Moroccan Ministry of Traditional Industries, Foreign Trade and Tourism. The activities of the opening ceremony included performances by the Royal Jordanian (RJ) Folklore Troupe and the Jordanian Armed Forces Band. The week, held on the sidelines of the Jordanian Industries Fair, includes exhibitions by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and RJ which aim to promote tourism in Jordan. The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs also has a special pavillion at the fair displaying all the stages of the third Jordanian reconstruction of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Princess Rania and Princess Aisha and her husband Zeid Jum'a arrived in Casablanca Sunday and were received by Prince. Rashid and Princess Hasna.

#### PSD chief to head for Haiti

AMMAN (Petra) - Director of the Public Security Department (PSD) Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan Tuesday will leave for Haiti on a five-day visit to inspect the Jordanian peacekeeping force deployed there. Lt.-Gen. Udwan will be accompanied on the visit by Director of the PSD Operations Brigadier Salman Al Ma'aitah and Director of Public Relations and Moral Guidance Colonel Mahmoud Obeidat.

#### Cordan, Vietnam conclude aviation accord

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian civil aviation delegation Monday returned home from Hanoi, Vietnam, after finalising an agreement, which was initialled by the two sides last December, defines the number of flights the Vietnamese airliners would be Jordanian and the operating between the two countries. The national air carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ) is expected to operate regular flights to and form

Vietnam soon. Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Ahmad Jweiber, who headed the delegation, commended, in an address delivered at the signing ceremony, Vietnam's openness to the world and development witnessed in the Southeast Asian country.

### IAF urges France to lift ban on scarf

#### By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) bloc in Parliament on Monday called on the French government to lift what it said were restrictions imposed on the religious freedoms of Muslims living in **France.** 

The call came amid the reaffirmations by a French minister of a ban on Muslim girls wearing headscarves in French government schools.

The IAF made its appeal to the French government during a meeting that a delegation representing the 16-strong IAF bloc in the Lower House of Parliament had with the French ambassador to Jordan, Bernard Bajolet, an IAF statement said.

The statement quoted the delegation as telling Ambassador Bajolet that 'we are surprised that France, which is proud of its revolution and culture, is restricting basic human freedoms ... including the freedom to exercise religious rights."

"Restraining our brothers and sisters in France from exercising their religious freedoms, including the freedom to choose their dress ... will not help contribute to developing the traditionally good relations between your republic and Arab and Muslim countries," the statement quoted the delegation as telling the ambassador.

"Education is a right of every individual regardless of dress," it quoted deputies Hamzeh Mansour and Mohammad Owaida as saying during the meeting. It was a reference to the expulsion of Muslim girls from French government schools for defying the ban on headscarves.

A spokesman for the French embassy confirmed the meeting and said the deputies delivered to Mr. Bajolet a letter addressed to President François Mitterrand.

The spokesman quoted Mr. Bajolet as telling the IAF deputies that France respected the freedom to exercise religious practices and hoped that the rest of the world would extend such respect in the same

The IAF was the latest Islamist group to protest the French ban on the Islamic headdress, which also came amid a French government crackdown on military groups, including Algerian Muslim fundamentalist groups.

Iranian women have staged several demonstrations in front of the French embassy in Tehran denouncing the ban on headscarves, and Iranian religious leaders have issued implicit warning that French-Iranian relations

stood to deteriorate further if the Paris government in-

On Sunday, French Education Minister Francois Bayrou defended the ban on Muslim girls wearing headscarves in state-run schools, saying the government had to stop the growth of Islamic fundamentalism in France.

About 30 girls have been expelled from schools for refusing to abide by the ban on headscarves. The ban is seen by Muslim groups as a denial of their right to wear their traditional Islamic

Mr. Bayrou banned the headscarves in September, describing them as "ostentatious religious sym-

"When you are in gov-ernment ... you try to look into the future to see what the weeds are, those whose growth will threaten French society and a certain vision of men and women in the next century," Mr. Bayrou was quoted as saying in a televi-

sion interview on Sunday. "When you see them ... you have a choice only between two things: between acting and doing nothing," Reuters quoted the minister as saying.

According to Mr. Bayrou, the number of girls wearing headscarves in school had plunged to about 600 from 2,000 in September.

### **WHAT'S GOING ON**

#### FILM

★ Film entitled "Nachtasyl" at Goethe-Institut at 7:00 p.m. ★ Film in French entitled "Spectre of Freedom" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Founda-

#### tion at 6:30 p.m. NEWS

ABC News Highlights and McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00

#### **LECTURE**

☆ Lecture in Arabic on the crucial role of

Arab education by Dr. Majul Din Kheiri at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 р.ш.

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

☆ Paintings exhibition by Syrian artist Ghayas AJ Akhras at Baladna Art Gallery. ☆ Ceramics exhibition by Mahir Samarrai at

Alia Art Gallery.

- ☆ Ceramics exhibition by Najwa Annab at the Orfali Art Gallery.
- ☆ Ceramics exhibition by Sa'id Al 'Ani at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art. Also showing a paintings exhibition by Husni
- Aba Karim.
- ☆ Exhibition on human international law entitled "Drawings from Arab Calligra-phy" at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also showing an exhibition of wooden products by Atallah Zabaneh.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Daniel Argimon at the Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- ★ Exhibit entitled "Signs and Symbols: Communication and Interpretation from the Brandywine Workshop" at the American
- ☆ Ceramics exhibition by Mahmond Taha at Darat Al Funun.

HIJAY RAILWAT TRAIN The party of the same of the s MARKET PRICE

**Richard Gere** 

ready to divorce Cindy Crawford

LONDON (AP) — Richard Gere was lying low in Lon-don, after a tabloid newspap-er published photos pur-portedly showing a 22-year-old model making early-

morning getaways from his apartment. The weekly News Of The World quoted an

unidentified friend of Gere as

saying. "He thinks Laura is

very sweet and sees his future

with her." Three photos

showed Bailey leaving what

the newspaper said was

Gere's posh apartment build-

ing in London's Chelsea area.

In one picture, she is hopping

over a garden wall to the yard

of the building next door.

Her facial expression is not-

ably vexed. There was no

sign of Gere at his apartment

after the report appeared.

Bailey has been spotted on

the street early in the morn-

ing in the past, but she has said that she was visiting a

girlfriend who lives next

door. Gere, a Buddhist, met

Bailey at a party thrown last

July by his religious mentor

and friend, the Dalai Lama, the News Of The World said.

he plays Sir Lancelot oppo-

site Sean Connery's King

## Ruling party election throws Nepal into turmoil

KATHMANDU (R) -- Nepal's ruling Congress Party staged a late comeback Monday in general elections, cutting heavily into the Communists' lead and throwing the Himalayan kingdom into political confusion.
"It is not a stable situation

and it is unclear and uncertain," said Lok Raj Baral, political science professor at Tribhuvan University in the capital Kathmandu.

- Congress, which had lagged behind the Communist Party by as many as two dozen seats in early returns from last Tuesday's parliamentary polls, dramatically narrowed their rivals' lead to six, with six races yet to be

With results reported in 199 constituencies, the Communist Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) had 86 seasts to Congress's 90.

The Communists still looked likely to win a razorthin plurality but it wass unclear if they would find a coalition partner to give them a working majority of at least

The Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) emerged as a political wild card, winning 20 seats — 16 more than it held in the outgoing parlia-

1969 while a political prisoner

RPP's leaders governed the kingdom for three decades under a partyless system which crumbled in 1990 following pro-democracy demonstrations led by Congress

and the Communists.

In the last elections in 1991, won by Congress, the RPP was on the political fringe, but it now enjoys a stronger bargaining position.

"We will cooperate with anaybody with which our policies are compatible," RPP spokesman Kamal Thapa said. "I don't rule out the possibility of us supporting the Congress or the UML depending n the policies they

Congress had conceded defeat to the Communists several days ago, saying they would sit in opposition.

But Congress President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said Monday his party could now catch up to the UML, giving the outgoing rulers the chance to form a coalition government.
"We will explore all possi-bilities," he said. "We will

not leave any option." UML accused Congress of rigging the final races to cut Communists' lead, and

said Congress had no moral

'State tried to kill Mandela in 1969'

NEW YORK (R) — Nelson zine hitting newsstands this her use of private bodyguards

Mandela was nearly killed in week, said he thwarted the but was not guilty of any

plot by refusing to cooperate

right to form a government because the UML had the dence vote in July.

Nepal said.
"In that case it will not be a

stable government because a

by means of open rigging and

blatant violation of all norms

of election and democracy

cannot sustain and cannot

command the respect of the

masses."
In the event of a hung

parliament, Nepal's four-

year-old constitution requires

King Birendra to name a

prime minister able to form a

workable coalition govern-

If no lawmaker can com-

mand a majority, then the

king must choose the leader

of the party with the most

seats. If a coalition fails to

win a vote of confidence

within 30 days, fresh polls must be called within six

The UML has explored

coalition possibilities with Congress dissidents who trig-

gered the snap poll by aban-doning Prime Minister Girija

months.

serious offences.

government which is formed

But it was unclear if the most seats. dissidents wanted to break "A tense political situation may emerge if the Nepali Congress by hook or by crook want to form the gov-ernment." UML General Secretary Madhav Kumar away from Mr. Koirala or if under parliamentary rules they could do so.

The UML's Nepal said he met the head of the Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party, with four seats, and the splinter Communist group assured critical and conditional support."

Mr. Baral said the shape of any coalition would depend on moves by Congress and the RPP in coming days.
"The elections which were

held by the prime minister seeking a mandate for stability have come otherwise, leading to every possibility of political instability," Mr. Baral said.

The Nepalese prime minister Mondaya tendered his resignation to King Birendra at the royal palace following the humiliating defeat of his party, a source close to the premier seaid.

Mr. Koirala was elected to the lower house of parlia-ment on Nov. 15 and said he would not lead the new government if his Nepali Congress (NC) party could not muster a majority to form a government.

France

proposes

EU fund

to solve

disputes

PARIS (R) — France, the next president of the Euro-

pean Union, Monday proposed creating an EU fund to help potential future mem-

bers in Central and Eastern

Europe settle border and

Prime Minister Edouard

Balladur, who initiated an

EU. drive for a European

stability pact, told a seminar

at the French parliament that

good neighbourly relations

were a condition for EU

membership since the union

did not want to import con-

minority disputes.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin (left) lays a wreath at the mansoleum of Ho Chi Minh, the founder of Communist Vietnam, in Hanoi,

Mr. Jiang, who is also Chinese Communist Party secretary general, is on a four-day official visit in Vietnam (AFP photo)

### Jiang sidesteps Spratlys in Vietnam visit

HANOI (AFP) - Chinese President Jiang Zemin sides-tepped troubling tensions with Vietnam over disputes in the South China Sea, and spent Monday on ceremonial visits that looked back to a time of warmer relations between the neighbours.

But while the Chinese seemed eager to avoid the issue of conflicting claims of sovereignty over the Spratly and Paracel Islands, the Vietnamese pushed it forward by reminding Beijing of Hanoi's position.

The local Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan juxtaposed front-page pictures of Mr. Jiang's arrival with a smaller photo of singers entertaining Vietnamese sailors on the Spratly Islands.

Press coverage of Vietnam's local elections Sunday also put unusual emphasis on voters going to the polls in the barely populated South China Sea islands. Mr. Jiang, however, made it clear that the Chinese would prefer to play a waiting game on the Spratlys, moving ahead with other issues while pledging to resolve the probiem peacefully.

There is no denying that there exist problems between China and Vietnam," Mr. Jiang told Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh at a banquet late Sunday.

But the Chinese president added: "We should try not to let these problems, which cannot be settled immediately, stand in the way of the development of relations between the countries."

Rival maritime claims, as well as long-running prob-lems over their land border, have lent a permanent sour note to relations. Yet the world's two largest Communist states have expanded economic links since resuming diplomatic relations in 1991. After talks with leaders

here, Mr. Jiang, the first head of China's Communist Party to visit Vietnam, spent the day harking back to the era when the two sides described themselves as being. as close as teeth and lips.

He laid wreaths at a war memorial and at the mausoleum of independence hero Ho Chi Minh, once a close ally of China's. Mr. Jiang also held a meeting with retired Premier Pham Van Dong, who governed Vietnam for nearly 30 years. Mr. Jiang later visited a

tobacco factory built with Chinese aid in 1957 and the Temple of Literature, a university founded along Confucian lines nearly a thousand

years ago. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, a member of the more than 130-strong delegation travelling with Mr. Jiang, held talks with his counterpart, Nguyen Manh

#### Suu Kyi backs democracy movements

MANILA (R) — Detained Burmese dissident leader Aung San Sun Kyi, in a speech delivered in absentia. attacked tyrannical regimes Monday and urged the United Nations to suppoprt democracy movements

around the world. The speech by the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize laureate — under house arrest in Burma for six years — was read by former Philippines Presi-

democracy campaigner who led a 1986 popular revolt that toppled the late Ferdinand Marcos from 20 years in pow-

In the speech to an Asia-Pacific regional conference of the U.N. agency World Commission on Culture and Development (WCCD). Ms. Suu Kyi challenged the view among authoritarian governments that economic growth

She said this "can be a recipe for disaster."

She slammed arguments that democracy was a Western concept alien to indigenous peoples of Asia and Africa and that democratic rights should give way to economic development.

A rapid democratic transition strengthening of civil society is necessary to develop societies genuinely she

### dent Corazon Aquino, a was paramount to democratic said. France opposes early enlargement of NATO

PARIS (Agencies) — France said Monday that a hasty enlargement of the NATO alliance or the Western European Union (WEU) to include Central European states could lead to more, rather than less, instability in

Europe. French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur appeared to be responding to U.S. pressure for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to take new steps towards enlargement at its ministerial council next

Mr. Balladur told a seminar on European stability in Paris: "The aim is not to speed up the enlargement of security bodies such as NATO or the WEU. Everyone is well aware that the sudden inclusion of new countries in these alliances could cause more instability than stability on our conti-

nent. He made no direct reference to the U.S. drive for the Atlantic alliance to begin discussing with Central and East European countries "the how and why but not yet the who and when" of NATO mem-

bership.
The U.S. administration is mapping out a strategy for bolstering European security

NATO and a new upgraded role for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

The proposals to be presented at the NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels and the CSCE summit next month were to allay Russian concerns of a threat from any eastward expansion of NATO. Russia has long argued that

the CSCE — of which it is a member — should take on the role of ensuring post-cold war security in Europe, a position that has been met with some support from France.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher heads to Brussels next week to propose criteria for NATO membership at the ministerial meeting scheduled for Dec. 1

President Bill Clinton was to put forward his vision of a stronger CSCE at its. Budapest summit on Dec. 5 and 6. a move expected to lead to the birth of a new Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Eastern and Central Europe are in need of a forum for preventive diplomacy, economic aid and environmental cleanup," a State Department official through gradual expansion of said ahead of the two key

The war in the former Yugoslavia has shown that the CSCE is the organisation of the future because it has in its broader mandate the ability to deal with terntorial disputes and ethnic tensions, and NATO does

not," he said.

Mr. Clinton, who discussed NATO's future with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in September, won support from Russia for widening the military alliance "as long as it is done gradually, carefully and in a transparent manner," a U.S. diplomat said.

Countries eligible for entry into the security alliance would have to show commitment to democracy and to free markets while proving their ability to adapt their defence capabilities to NATO standards, a condition viewed by many as difficult to meet.

, NATO membership would have to be approved unanimously by the 16 memberstates of the Atlantic alliance and by the U.S. Congress in line with treaty provisions.

The move towards new European security arrangements comes after a con-troversial U.S. decision to stop enforcing the Bosnian arms embargo sparked tension in Washington's relations with NATO allies. The U.S. military presence

in Europe has also reached its lowest level in 40 years, prompting concerns among European leaders that new mechanisms must be put in place to compensate for the trimmed-down U.S. support.

Mr. Clinton was to pros-pose that the CSCE play a more active diplomatic role in mediating conflicts including the ongoing war between ethnic Armenians and Azeris for control of Nagorno-Karabakh, an ethnic Armenian enclave located inside Azerbaijan.

He was also to urge member-states to take one a role in overseeing future peacekeeping operations and develop a framework for conventional arms control and non-proliferation issues.

The CSCE was also to be asked to help rehabilitate the former Yugoslav states which have taken hard economic hits from the 31-month war in Bosnia and the international embargo.
The CSCE, born out of the

1975 Helsinki Accords, has long focused on human rights issues, but a loose structure and limited powers have prevented the organisation from taking on greater European security chal-

#### invasion of plastic ducks

of 29,000 plastic toy ducks are bobbing their way towards the coast of Britain, the Times newspaper said Monday. "Britain should be put on duck alert," Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer, an oceanographer from Seattle, Washington who has been using computer simulation to track the toys, told the newspaper. The animals, which also include some blue turtles, red beavers and green frogs, were washed overboard in heavy seas from a container ship in the North Pacific in January 1992. They had been frozen in the Arctic Sea but are expected to be carried south by the Gulf stream, completing their 12,000 mile voyage on the British and Irish coasts.

#### in the escape bid. in a state-sponsored assassination plot disguised as an "It was not the last time. Mr. Mandela described the assassination plott in a secthey would try to eliminate escape attempt, the South tion recounting his time in South Africa's Robben Island African president says in his me," he said in the excerpt. forthcoming autobiography. In an excerpt published in Prison. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1960 for Mr. Mandela, in an excerpt Britain, Mr. Mandela said his of his autobiography appearestranged wife, Winnie, ing in the issue of Time maga- showed poor judgment over



troops are taking part in a government opera-

A Brazilian army helicopter flies low over the tion launched in Rio's shums aimed at cracking hiliside shacks of the shantytown of Dende in down on the Hegal trade in fire arms and Rio De Janeiro. Some 1,500 federal army drugs (AFP photo)

### Soldiers camp for 2nd night in Rio slum

RIO DE JANEIRO (Agencies) — Brazilian army soidiers were preparing to spend a second night occupying one of Rio De Janeiro's crimeridden shantytowns in the military's three-week-old crackdown on drug-related crime.

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In scenes more reminiscent of a war zone than the city of Samba and Sun, local television showed soldiers in the slums lying flat on the ground, holding guns, faces painted in battlefield green.

But it was unclear if the sandbag shelters many crouched behind were there to protect the soldiers from snipers or from the heavy rains falling in recent days. Flanked by helicopters and tanks, the soldiers moved into two shantytowns Saturday morning.

afternoon.

mar Franco on Oct. 31, was noticeably low-key until Friday afternoon when soldiers set up temporary checkpoints at the entrance of five slums throughout the city.
The troops detained more

than 150 people in the massive sweep across slums that officials said Sunday was hitting hard at the city's drug



A young resident of the shantytown of Mangueira, Rio de Janeiro, looks at a Brazilian army soldier as he patrols the outskirts of the slum district (AFP photo)

After seizing drugs, firearms and a stash of money discovered in an abandoned shack, the soldiers withdrew from one of the slums this

The crime crackdown, announced by President Ita-

"Organised crime has abandoned the area," Col. Ivan Cardoso told reporters. But federal forces remained active in nearby Dende, and Col. Cardoso said troops might move into any of the 600 shantytowns surrounding Rio de Janeiro in

the upcoming days.
In Mangueira, a total of 128 people were detained, including three young offen-ders authorities believe are linked to the drug mafia, but only 18 were turned over to the police anti-drug unit.

In Dende, military forces detained 39 people and navy gunmen vowed to remain in the district until every house believed to be a refuge for drugs and arms trafficking was searched.

The main thing is not the number of arrests, drugs or arms seized but rather that drug dealers leave the shantytowns," said Colonel Luis Ceastio.

In Dende, one 35-year-old man, Jose Luis Nunes Sob-rinho, was hospitalised, suffering from a gunshot wound he claimed to have received from government troops. Residents interviewed ear-

lier in some of the shanty-

towns said the number of drug dealers and buyers had fallen markedly since the army began Operation Rio "Even though the troops left Friday after patrolling the neighbourhood, the drug buyers disappeared," said one resident in Andarai, one

of the seven hillside shanty-

towns where nearly four mil-

lion of the city's 9.5 million residents live. During the operation, Mangueira and Dende were sealed off by army tanks and barbed wire while some 1,600 soldiers and navy gunmen

Checkpoints were also set

up in other parts of the state

to prevent drug dealers from

combed the area.

fleeing the region.

TOKYO (R) — Japan has acknowledged for the first time that it blundered in not for not passing on the cable. cuse," it said.

delivering a diplomatic cable to the United States signalling the start of war until its forces had already attacked Pearl Harbour.' Foreign Ministry docuend of the negotiatins had

ments from the period re-leased at the weekend blamed a "a lack of urgency" by Japan's Washington embassy staff in delivering the cable, which Tokyo was withdrawing from talks aimed at avoiding war. Japan attacked the U.S.

military base at Pearl Har-bour on Dec. 7, 1941, with-out a declaration of war. A ministry statement issued with the newly declassified documents apologised There is no room for ex-

It was the ministry's first official recognitison that Japanese diplomats had blundered over the start of war. Many historians say that if the document announcing the

United States could have anticipated attack and taken precautions at its bases. The Pearl Harbour raid by Japanese carrier-based planes in the early morning hours of Dec. 7 dealt a devastating blow to the U.S. Fleet.

in Tokyo sent a total of 13

secret memoranda on the

negotiations to the Washing-

been delivered earlier, the

According to the docu-ments, the Foreign Ministry

were decoded there by a telegrapher by the evening of Dec. 6. The telegrapher then left

the embassy to attend a farewell party for a returning diplomat. First Secretary Shozo Okumura, who was supposed to type a clean copy, went home, leaving the work until the following

A top-secret 14th memorandum, which announced Tokyo's withdrawal from the talks, was dispatched on the morning of Dec. 7 and de-coded by noon Washington

It was supposed to be delivered by 1 p.m. on Dec. 7, just 25 minutes before Japanese warplanes started

Japan acknowledges Pearl Harbour blunder the attack on Pearl Harbour. ton embassy. All of them but its fair copy was not ready before 1.25 p.m. by then the

> The 14th memorandum was actually handed over to U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull only at 2.20 p.m., according to the documents The Foreign Ministry concluded that the memorandum was not processed in time because embassy personnel in Washington failed to realise the decision to break off

Japanese air raids had set off

the Pacific War.

talks meant war, A ministry investigation primarily blamed Mr. Okumura for the delay, saying there was "professional negli gence at the governmental establishment abroad (the embassy).

It said that Crawford, 28, and Gere, 45, had placed their \$5,5 million Hollywood home up for sale, and that they want an amicable divorce. "It's in the hands of lawyers and he keeps bugging them to sort it out," the paper quoted the unidentified "friend" as saying. Gere is in Britain filming First Knight, in which

#### **Some Chinese** maps can get vou lost

BEIJING (AP) - If nearsighted shoppers start going to Tiananmen Gate looking for new eyeglasses or people tor new eyeglasses or people start trying to order food from the army guards at Mao Tse-Tung's Mausoleum, blame it on the maps. Maps of Beijing and Shanghai are full of errors like the ones that out the Daming Spaces. that put the Daming Spectacles shop on top of the old city gate that faces Tiananmen Square and mislabels the final resting place of revolutionary leader Mao as Yueshengzhai, a restaurant that specialises in beef and is located down the road from the mausoleum, according to a report in Monday's Guangming Daily. The Shanghai government office in charge. of maps has received scores of letters pointing out more than 150 errors in the official Shanghai city street map. Errors in Beijing maps include moving 2,000-square kilometre (1,240-square mile) Changping County, a community of 300,000 people, from the outskirts of Beijing to the next province, and mislabeling the Beijing Library as the Beijing Drawing Gallery and the China History Museum as the Wangfujing branch store. The errors are not limited to city maps of China. Maps of China incorrectly label Hainan Island in the South China Sea and world maps have international borders in the wrong places, the report said. The government has issued several laws governing map production, but they are not often enforced. With a 50 per cent profit margin on map-making and the increasing need for maps as Chinese become more mobile, it is easy to see why the map market has gotten out of control, the paper said. The Beijing City Planning Research Institute every year uncovers more than 10 cases of illegally printed maps. In some cases, they are patched together, cut-and-paste-style, from existing maps on the market. In other cases, printing firms use their connections to get

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# U.K. on alert for

copies of approved maps to

LONDON (R) — An armada

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The system meant that a politician could be elected issues. with as little as 10 per cent of

LONDON (AFP) - An Irish

Republican Army (IRA) confession that its members

killed a postal worker in a

bungled holdup has rekindled

long-held beliefs that re-

negade dissident factions are

still active within the orga-

In a terse weekend com-

munique, the IRA apolo-

gised for the death of Frank

Kerr, 53, shot dead in the

Nov. 11 holdup of a post

office in Newry, County

"IRA volunteers acting on

instructions were involved in

this incident," said the state-

ment, which did not stipulate

where the instructions origin-

NAPLES, Italy (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros

Ghali branded organised

crime a threat to democracy

Monday and urged govern-

ments to join forces to fight

off the growing menace of the

Opening a three-day min-isterial conference on cross-

border crime, he told dele-

gates from 138 countries that

the tentacles of "crime multi-

nationals" had spread across

the globe.
"In Europe, in Asia, in

Africa and in America, the

forces of darkness are at

work and no society is spared," Dr. Ghali said.

Nations is based entirely on

the values of democracy and

the dignity of human rights.

Transational crime, however,

undermines the very founda-

tions of the international

crime, however, undermines the very foundations of the

international democratic

order," he told the gathering.

climate, corrupts political

leaders and undermines hu-

The conference, being held

amid massive security in the be spawned. This is what we

(It) poisons the business

The charter of the United

world's mafias.

. . .

member lower house.

day, clearing the way for possible early general elec-The passage of the electoral reform bills, the first overhaul of the multi-seat elector-

A French U.N. soldier mounts his APC in Sarajevo, after

the U.N. Protection Force soldiers in Bosnia went to top

"red alert" at 1:00 p.m. (1200 GMT). The alert for the

TOKYO (R) — Japan's par- the vote.

lizemnt enacted a set of long-

awaited measures designed of

clean up the country's

candal-prone politics Mon-

al system since 1925, is cer-

tain to put at least moral

pressure on Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama to call

early polls, lawmakers said.

call general elections before

mid-1997, but ever since June

when he came to power as

the head of an unwieldy

Socialist-Liberal Democratic

Party, (LDP) coalitiosn, the

opposition has clamoured for

early polls.

The reform package, first submitted by then-Premier

Toshiki Kaifu in 1991, is de-

seigned to make election

compaign less costly. Cam-paign ands were blamed as a mor chuse of the country's

tem, candidates from a ruling

bloc were forced to run

against each other in a given

Mr. Murayama need not

tions in 1995.

Japan ushers in new era

so became prone doing favours in exchange for campaign funds.
Since the Recruit "sharesfor-favours" affair of 1988, pressure has mounted on Japan's political establishment to clean up its act. Prime Ministers Noboru

Candidates also competed

to outspend opponents and

Takeshita, Mr. Kaifu and Kiichi Miyazawa all lost their iobs because of links to shady campaign money or inability to push through electoral re-The new bills, when they

come to force on Dec. 25, will introduce single-seat districts for 300 constituencies in a new smaller 500-seat lower house, with the rest elected through proportional representation. Under the new system vo-

ters would get two ballots one for a candidate in each of the 300 single seat contests and the other for a specific party which is required to publish a list of separate candidates running in the 11 regional contests totalling the other 200 seats.

The 200 seats are allocated according to the percentage constituency which elected between three to five deof votes the parties receive. puties. There were a total of Lawmakers said the new

130 districts for the 511system meant more policyoriented elections rather than

> ones geared to purely local Other measures include

IRA's admission in holdup death

But the statement denied

the IRA leadership had sanc-

tioned the holdup, saying,

"responsibility... lies with an

unidentified problem in the

army's chain of command

and not with the volunteers

involved in the killing were

acting on instructions result-

ing from a chain-of-command

problem was seen by obser-

vers as suggesting that an

IRA figure senior enough to

issue such instructions, had

missed the point of the IRA's

The IRA statement added:

"We have established that

Frank Kerr was shot in the

Ghali:World mafias threaten democracy

crime-blighted southern Ita-

lian port of Naples, is the

highest-level meeting the

U.N. has ever called on orga-

It takes place at a time of

mounting alarm at the speed

with which traditionally clan-

nish organisations such as the

Hong Kong-based triads, Ita-

ly's mafias, the Japanese yakuza and Russian groups

are beginning to make deals

U.N. experts say interna-

tional crime syndicates now

turn over a combined \$750

billion a year - more than

the economic output of most

countries and much of it "laundered" through the

global financial system.

Dr. Ghali cited the col-

lapse of communism and the disintegration of the Soviet

Union, regional conflicts and

social decay in countries of

the Third World as develop-

ments which had all contri-

buted to the explosion of

organised crime.
"When order is in retreat.

and when law, morals and

democracy are under attack,

all kinds of criminal ventures

and deviant behaviour may

nised crime.

with each other.

Sept. 1 ceasefire pledge.

The admission that those

points to renegade elements

involved."

with more than five lawmak-Last week, Mr. Murayama clearly said he was not plan-

stricter anti-graft measures and public funding for parties

of voting

about 18,000 UNPROFOR soldiers in Bosnia came after the

U.N. Security Council authorised NATO air strikes against

27 die as

celebrates

LUANDA (AFP) — At least 27 people died and 187 were

injured bullets when Luan-

dans celebrated a pact to end

Angola's civil war, hospital

sources said Monday as the

countdown to a formal cease-

The deaths came after gov-

ernment and rebel leaders

signed the peace accord in

the Zambian capital Lusaka

Sunday. Police said civilians

were felled by random shots

in this shabby but lively

Police put the toll at 24 and

some 60 wounded and said

that 30 soldiers and

armed civilians, had been

arrested for opening fire, but

the higher figures were issued

to Radio Luanda and the

private Radio Lac by sepa-

The victims were the latest

casualties in a war that has

claimed more than 100,000

lives in the two years since a

collapsed when the rebel UN-

rate medical sources.

South Atlantic port city.

**Angola** 

peace

pact

fire began.

Croatian Serbs in their Krajina enclave (AFP photo)

ning snap elections at least until August next year. He said parties would have two chances to compete in nationwide polls - unified local elections in April and upper house polls in July.

Electoral reform is just one of the upheavals shaking Japanese politics.

Japan's nine main opposition parties, apart from the Communists, plan to unite on Dec. 10 into a grand New Party to bring down Mr. Murayama's coalition which is showing signs of tottering. Socialist dissidents on the weekend openly called for the disbandment of the party in January, following Mr. Muarayama's move to drop

ty and nuclear power.

Led by Mr. Murayama's deputy Wataru Kubo, the dissidents called for the formation of a "democratic" third party in a bid to forestall the introduction of a

oppositison of the millitary,

the U.S.-Japan security trea-

two-party system. "The prime minister does not like these moves," Socialist Construction Minister previous peace agreement Koken Nosaka said. "They are making this noise when

we need party unity most."

midst of an intense scuffle

with one of our volunteers

and we take this opportunity

It stressed the IRA's "com-

mitment to the success of the

The confession has reinforced the belief, held by

some politicians on both sides

of the Irish Sea, that dissident

factions within the IRA were

at odds with the ceasefire and

intended to pursue violence.

Pat Doherty denied the exist-

ence of a dissident IRA fac-

tion, and insisted there was

no reason to delay starting

are bound to work together to prevent," he said. "I... see this meeting as an

opportunity for us to re-state

our commitment to the

U.N. officials and the

triumph of the rule of law

over the law of the jungle."

gathering's Italian hosts hope the Naples meeting will agree

harmonised laws against

organised crime and money

laundering so that the mobs

will have no "safe haven".

to consider ways to boost regional and international

cooperation, including on the

exchange of police intelli-gence, and whether a new international convention is

Current conventions cover

only drugs and piracy, while mob activities have extended

to virtually any illegal activity for profit — from the snug-gling of nuclear-related mate-rials to a growing trade in

human organs for transplant.

recommendations but if there

are no binding obligations 10

follow, they do not amount to much," one senior U.N. offi-

cial attending the conference

"We can make beautiful

The conference is also due

"I think the talks will

talks with London.

Sinn Fein Vice President

to offer sincere apologies.

peace process."

ITA movement refused to accept it had lost U.N.supervised elections. UNITA Monday called for national reconciliation. Its radio interviewed several officials of the movement, who stressed that wanted to "forget the past" and the war

from Portugal in 1975. Red tracers lit up the night sky over Luanda's bay Sunday evening as the firing of light arms, machine-guns and anti-aircraft batteries made up for a singular lack of enthusiasm for the peace

that followed independence

accord earlier in the day. During the hours of sunshine pleasure-seekers went about their business on the beaches and in beachfront cafes with barely a glance at live television transmissions of the ceremony meant to end 19 years of civil war.

The pact is already viewed at suspect because of the absence of the signatures of President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and the leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) Jonas Savimbi.

But in the evening, the city livened up and the U.N. hangar at Luanda airport "took 15 shots," said Major Mike Nasamu of the U.N. Angola Verification Mission (ŪN-AVEM).

"An aircraft was hit three times, but we think it was just celebratory firing," he said. The last shot in anger in the civil war is due sometime Tuesday, before a formal

ceasefire comes into effect some 48 hours after the signing of the accord. The rebel chieftain did not turn up for the signing ceremony in Lusaka. His spokesman said a government offensive had made it impossible

for him to leave Angola. The pact was signed by UNITA General-Secretary General Eugenio Manuvakola and Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio De Мошга.

Major Nasamu told AFP that he had no information on fighting Monday, although he confirmed reports from both the government and UNITA that clashes had continued as the peace accord was being signed Sunday.

### **NATO** jets hit Krajina airfield

launched a massive 30-warplane attack on an airfield in a Serb-held area of Croatia Monday.

The raid came after Serb aircraft attacked targets in the Bihac enclave of northstern Bosnia last Friday

and Saturday.
NATO said British, Dutch, U.S. and French warplanes took part in the attack on the Udbina Airfield Monday in close coordination with the United Nations Protection Force in former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR).

"The air strike ... was in response to attacks which had been launched from that airfield against targets in the Bihac area of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the past few days," said the NATO statement issued in Brussels.

NATO Southern Europe Commander Admiral Leighton Smith said the attack, launched from Italy, was successful and all aircraft returned to base.

In Zaghreb, the head of UNPROFOR, Yasushi Akashi said the strike was aimed at preventing further use of the Udbina Military Airfield.

"The air action today was a necessary and proportionate response to the continued use of this airfield for hostile air attacks against the Bihac pocket of Bosnia-Herzegovina," Mr. Akashi said in a statement which made clear he first gave authorisation for a strike Sun-

NATO sources said the alliance launched a raid on the Udbina Airfield Sunday but called it off because of bad weather.

"It must be recalled that three air raids have been launched in the past two weeks from the airfield at Udbina. These air raids have included the use of napalm and cluster bombs and have caused civilian casualties and have hit the Bihac 'safe area'," Mr. Akashi's statement said.

"I hope that today's NATO air attack will deter any further attack on the Bihac safe area and its surroundings or on UNPRO- sion that allowed NATO air FOR personnel within strikes against Serb positions. Bihac," the U.N...envoy added.

manner to limit as much as extent violated international

possible any collateral damage or civilian casualties.

He appealed to the leaders of the Serb-controlled Krajina region of Croatia to respect Bosnia's sovereignty and allow unimpeded passage for humanitarian aid convoys into the Muslim-controlled

Bihac pocket. Mr. Akashi, noting his authority under Security Council Resolution 836 to use air power, said: "On Sunday, I used that authority to request NATO to conduct a limited air strike on the air field at Udbina in the Serbcontrolled territory of Croatia, with the objective of preventing further use of the

Mr. Akashi called on the Serb leaders in Knin, capital of their breakaway Krajina republic" to immediately desist from aggressive action in Bosnia and to end the 'clearly unacceptable and intolerable" blockade of assistance to Bihac civilians and U.N. peacekeepers.

He also asked all parties fighting in Bihac to "give immediate consideration to the establishment of a local ceasefire."

Later Monday, NATO warplanes struck a second time at the Serb-held air base of Udbina in Croatia, the Yugoslav News Agency said. It quoted Serb military officers in the area as saying the second raid occurred shortly after 1300 GMT and that the aircraft hit the base and the area around it.

There was no immediate confirmation from NATO that a second raid had been

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said Monday he supported the NATO air strike.

"My reaction is as long as it was decided with my special representatives who had received the mandate — and it was decided in conformity with the resolution of the Security Council and cooperation with NATO — it is something positive," he told reporters.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin Monday backed the U.N. Security Council's deciin Croatia.

Mr. Yeltsin, speaking to Mr. Akashi said the air reporters, said: "Krajina strike was carried out in a Serbs (in Croatia) to some

agreements and launched air Smith said. raids which is inadmissible." It was not immediately clear if Mr. Yeltsin, who was speaking after a ceremony to

receive the credentials of ambassadors, already knew of the NATO air raids on the Serb airfield in Croatia. But Mr. Yeltsin said Moscow's representative at the Security Council had been

ordered to support such attacks. Our representative there voted for such a decision because the international community must be respected," he said.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silaidzic welcomed Monday's NATO air raid. "We would have liked it sooner, but it is never too late," he told CNN television. He had earlier complained NATO was being slow to react to the Serb

bombing of Muslim towns in

the enclave of Bihac. Mr. Silajdzic said the NATO air raid on Udbina Airfield in Croatia underlined that Serb forces were attacking Bosnia from across international boundaries and the 31-month-old conflict could not be classed as a civil

He criticised European governments for failing to allow the Bosnian government the right to defend itself, referring to the reluctance of many countries to lift the arms embargo on his government.

Earlier Mr. Silajdzīc had asked whether NATO was waiting for the heavy Serb assault on Bihac to turn the northwestern enclave into a "mass grave" before it reacted.

NATO said Monday 39 allied aircraft took part in an attack on the Serb air base but intentionally avoiding hitting aircraft on the ground. NATO Southern Com-

mander Admiral Leighton Smith said the raid on the Udbina Air Base had been successful and had also destroyed Serb anti-aircraft installations and a surface-toair missile site in the area. Adm. Smith, briefing re-

porters at NATO Southern Headquarters in Naples, said the strike was in response to two Serb air attacks from Udbina on the Bihac pocket. "Clearly the signal has been sent. Our hope is that it

has been received." Adm.

But he said U.N. forces in former Yugoslavia, which requested a strike, had specifically asked NATO not to hit Serb planes on the ground in order to avoid collateral dam-

He also said in response to questions that the raid was not of sufficient magnitude to put the runway at Udbina

fully out of commission. Sniper fire killed a man on Sarajevo's main street shortly after the NATO raid, eyewit-

NATO has been ready to unleash its airpower against Serb forces in Croatia after the U.N. Security Council granted it new powers to hit targets outside Bosnia used by Serb nationalists for the attacks on Bihac,

Heavy fighting was re-ported in Bihac Monday, with United Nations peacekeeping troops there said to have come under fire on three occasions. The mainly Muslim Bos-

nian government army was fighting off Serbs from Bos-nia and Croatia as well as a rebel Muslim faction led by local warlord Fikret Abdic. U.N. spokesman Thant Myint-U said ther was "quite a lot of fighting on seven different fronts," in the Bihac region, with Serb forces closing in on the town of Velika Kladusa, in the north of the

"It appears that the BSA (Bosnian Serb Army) has completely encircled Velika Kladusa although the BIH (Bosnian Gövernment Army) is still holding out-side," Mr. Thant added.

There was also growing concern about the fate of 1,200 Bangladeshi U.N. peacekeepers in Bihac, who came under fire on three occasions in the last 24 hours.

The Bangladeshis, equipped with only one rifle for every five men, are running out of food and fuel and almost without medical supplies, the United Nations

A tank shell which exploded inside a Bangladeshi logistics base Sunday added to the list of their privations In Sarajevo, guided missiles hit the city hall and

presidency building Monday. injuring three people in vet another attack on Bosnian government offices, witness

### Berlusconi tastes defeat in Italy local elections

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was tasting his first electoral defeat Monday as the party that thrust him to power looked set to take a beating at the hands of the opposition and a

rightist party in his coalition. While members of his Forza Italia party said the first round elections for councils in 242 towns had only local significance, the opposition crowed victory and editorial writers said Mr. Berlusconi would have to take the results

seriously. "For Silvio Berlusconi this is something more than an alarm bell," said the Corriere Della Sera newspaper.

Forza Italia, which took more than 30 per cent of the vote in the European Parliament elections in June, appeared to be paying the price of an unpopular auster-

According to exit polls Sunday Night, Forza Italia, the party Mr. Berlusconi founded to stop the rise of the left in last March's national elections, was due to suffer the worst defeat of all political groupings involved in the local elections.

Support for Forza Italia was running at 10 to 15 per cent in the seven big towns where the exit polls were carried out. About 80 per cent of the 2.6 million eligible voters cast ballots.

Early results from 12 cities in Sicily were in line with the predictions. According to the exit polls,

opposition candidates in five the seven big cities involved in the polls would come out on top in mayoral But none were seen win-

ning an absolute majority and the two leading candidates in cities with populations of more than 15,000 would likely take part in the Dec. 4 run-off elections.

In voting for town councils, Mr. Berlusconi's party was roundly beaten by the former communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), which joined forces in some of the big cities with the Popular Party, the former Christian Democrats.

Forza Italia also lost support to the hard-right National Alliance, whose leader,

Gianfranco Fini, has seen his personal popularity soar in recent opinion polls. The right is standing but

Forza Italia is limping, Rome's La Repubblica newspaper said in an editorial. The National Alliance had surpassed Forza Italia in

overall strength in most of the big cities involved in the exit polls. The National Alliance.

seeking to distance itself from its neo-fascist roots, was set to become the biggest group in the cities of Brindisi and Pescara, according to the exit

The federalist Northern League consolidated its position as the leading party in strongholds such as Treviso and Sondrio. The Northern League consolidated its position as the leading party in strongholds such as Treviso and Sondrio. The Northern League is the other main partner in an uneasy coalition government that took office six months ago.

The boost for Mr. Berlusconi's two partners, who are frequently at each other's throats, is unlikely to make

his job easier as the printe minister struggles to keep his. coalition together.

Mr. Fini said the coalition parties, which fielded separate rival candidates in many areas, needed to join forces: "This shows that if government parties run together then the opposition will be

beaten almost everywhere. Mr. Fini said. Northern League leader Umberto Bossi said the polls showed that his party remained a force to be reck-

coned with. Forza Italia members tried to play down the results. "Let's not dramatise this outcome. It's because of the budget," said Forza Italia

Deputy Vittorio Dotti. "We had to deal with a disastrous financial situation and all the international observers have said the budget is positive." The austerity budget aims to slash the deficit by \$30

billion in 1995. The Lower House is set to approve it. Monday but it then faces a rough ride in the Senate where the government does not have an absolute major-

### Major warned tough measures needed to keep support

getting richer on the backs of the rest, who are getting

Privatisation, the hallmark of 15 years of unbroken Conservative rule, was not popular, the report says. Figures show the British

economy is growing at an annual rate of more than four per cent, but the "feel-good factor". has still not seeped through to the High Street, where consumers remain wary because of high levels of Public anger over huge pay

rises to bosses of privatised companies boiled over again Monday when news leaked out that the head of British gas, Cedric Brown, had earned a 75 per cent increase. taking his annual salary to £475,000 (\$745,000).

The news followed last week's announcement that gas prices will rise by ? 9 per cent next year, above the rate

"Most of the people in this

Conservative voters feel "the reality is now that the rich are report prepared for Prime Minister John Major warned Britain's ruling Conservatives Monday they must take harsh measures to avoid defeat at the next election.

> let voters down: They have been in government too long, are complacent and have lost a sense of direction. They fail to fulfill promises, are clumsy at implementing policy and shoot themselves in the foot'," the report said, summing up voters' feelings.

"The Conservatives have

The frank warning to Mr. Major, which was not meant to be made public, was re-vealed in Monday's Financial Times, which had obtained a copy of the report.

Written by the Conservative Party's deputy chairman and former treasury minister, John Maples, the report said core Conservative voters do nto feel the economy is improving, rremoving the main plank of Mr. Major's reelection campaign.

The report said disaffected

country... will be angry and appalled at these excessive pay rises at a time when people are facing a cut in their living standards as a result of tax rises and are about to face a rise in their gas bills," the opposition Labour Party's economics spokesman Gordon Brown told BBC Radio.

To increase pressure on Mr. Major, Labour, which leads the Conservatives by 25 points in opinion polls, revealed plans to entice rebellious Conservative lawmakers to defy the government on three key votes in the next few weeks.

Defeats for Mr. Major

would be highly embarrassing and could even provoke an early election. Mr. Major does not have to hold elec-tions until 1997.

The prime minister has warned rebellious Conservastive members of parliament he will treat a vote next week on a bill to increase Britain's payments to the European Union as a matter of confi-

dence, meaning he would call elections if he loses. Mr. Brown said Labour

would try to push through an amendment to the government's budget bill scrapping a planned tax increase on heating fuel to 17.5 per cent from eight per cent. With up to eight Conserva-

tive rank-and-file MPsalready threatening to vote. against the European bill and . with a thin majority of just 14, the government faces a bruising start to the new sessison of parliament which began last Wednesday.

In a third challenge to the government, Labour is also planning to persuade rebel Conservatives to back a move giving the post office more commercial freedom.

In an embarrassing reversal, the government was forced to scrap a plan to privatise the Royal Mail after a rebellion by around a dozen MPs, worried that the possible closure of rural postoffices could threaten their...

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### Driving the point in

THINGS ARE maybe shaping up for road safety in Jordan if all the local rhetoric about making driving in the country safer for both drivers and pedestrians comes to fruition. Jordan has lately witnessed a sharp upsurge in road accidents that claimed unprecedented number of lives. The concerned authorities appear to be responding to the carnage on our streets but we wonder how effective or even serious the response is. For example, the Traffic Department is currently conducting monthly programmes that aim to rehabilitate taxi drivers who have developed a habit of flouting every safe driving code in the country. The organisers of this "reeducational" campaign hope to awaken irresponsible drivers to the need to operate their vehicles in accordance with applicable road safety guidelines. This suggests that the crux of the problem we face is strictly a matter of reeducating drivers as to what is acceptable and what is not when it comes to driving on national roads and highways. We beg to differ on this score.

All Jordanians with a valid driving licence know only too well what the rules of the game are. The problem with so many of them is not lack of knowledge about what constitutes reasonable driving habits but rather the actual disrespect for the laws. Who among the so many reckless drivers around does not know that a stop sign means real stopping instead of the current interpretation of such signs as mere decorations or better still as a licence to proceed forward at full speed? We also do not understand the apparent concern of our authorities to educate drivers when traffic policemen themselves have yet to take seriously all driving rules and not only speeding and illegal parking. Everything else seems to be ignored, including orderly driving within lanes (when they are visible), observing the right of way and other driving courtesies that are nowhere to be found in the Jordanian driving culture. It is going to take more than two days of lecturing to transform dangerous driving in this country into a safe one. Maybe the seminar on safe driving, that the police department will conduct next week in cooperation with National Swedish Institute for Consultation, will open new avenues for making driving in Jordan less hazardous.

What the country actually needs is a new driving culture that is safe and courteous. This is no easy task, but a beginning must be made. Perseverance on the part of the concerned authorities in making driving in the country safe is a sine qua non for any real change. When the traffic police themselves are ill-motivated and do not care less about any traffic violation except speeding and illegal parking, the central problem lies with the police and not the public. Unless our guests for next week, the Swedish experts, fully comprehend the essence of the problem, their contributions may not be as useful as we all hope it will be. What we need is not abstract advice but down-to-earth remedies that are commensurate with our pressing needs.

#### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Monday demanded that the Ministry of Industry and Trade set and apply specifications and measurements that can safeguard public health and protect Jordanian people's interests. Tareq Masarweh cited the example of the shipment of tomatoes that was Sunday returned to Jordan after failing to pass Israeli quality control and specifications tests saying that bad quality products, including tomatoes, are sold daily in the Jordanian markets which are not subject to control of any kind. Many of the locally-produced goods and imported commodities are of a quality far below the internationallyaccepted levels of specifications, including foodstuff, which are consumed in Jordan, said the writer. He recalled that a shipment of contaminated rice and coffee was consumed here as were consignments of meat unfit for human consumption. Even cars that are sold in Jordan are lower quality than those sold in other Arab states, he said. There can be no real protection to people's health through regular Health Ministry regulations, said the writer who demanded the Ministry of Industry and Trade set specifications which can help control all kinds of items sold in the Kingdom.

AL DUSTOUR daily reflected on the Jordanian-Oatari relations in light of a visit to Doha by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and talks held in Jordan by the Qatari Information Minister Dr. Hamad Kuwari. The visit and the talks, said the paper, usher in a new era of fruitful cooperation between the two sister countries thanks to the directives of the leaderships in the two countries. While expressing our deep satisfaction and delight over these developments, we can only hope that Qatari-Jordanian relations would set ideal example for the other Arab countries, including the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, continued th epaper. It said that Jordan hopes that the strong ties between Qatar and Jordan would open the door for similar relations between Qatar and Jordan would open the door for similar relations between Jordan and the rest of the Gulf states so that they can together lead the way towards reestablishing solidarity among Arab

The View from Fourth Circle

# Fighting to avoid the sad margins of history

The recent clashes in Gaza between Palestinians for and against the PLO-Israel accord are not only about Hamas, Yasser Arafat, Islam and the ideology of the majority of Palestinians. They are about something far deeper, for they have ushered in the Palestinian hour of historical reckoning. The next half year or so is likely to indicate whether the Palestinians are a viable people who can exercise their right to a sovereign state, or whether they are only a demographic limb of the greater Arab World that got caught and was snapped off in the claws of European colonialism and Zionism. colonialism and Zionism.

The shock of Palestinians being killed by other Palestinians is real, but is rather overplayed in the media. Palestinians have been killing each other for many years, as have Arabs in many other parts of the Middle East. There are few if any Arab countries where the police and army have not routinely attacked their own people in the name of security and development. This is regrettable, but not unusual in the Arab World.

The real cause of the shock about the fighting in Gaza is what it suggests to us about the Palestinian future. It holds out the unimaginable spectre of perpetual marginalisation, of a people relegated to the peripheral status of a semi-free, semi-caged, quasi-nation ruled by the political laws of petty local gangsterism. It is an ugly but still possible prospect.

The most important underlying reason for the violence in Gaza is the sudden clarity of how weak is the PLO-Israel

peace process, and how limited are the Palestinian gains from it to date, in the face of two other factors that now require attention: the successful Jordanian-Israeli peace accord, and the option of violent resistance against Israelis, as Hamas and Islamic Jihad have shown. Most Palestinians compare their predicament with the successful Jordanian peace treaty and they find the situation quite humiliating; they are not necessarily angry at Jordan, but rather at Israel and at their own Palestinian leaders. Further Palestinian resentment is fuelled by another huge and compelling contrast: on the one hand, Israel treats Yasser Arafat as an errand boy, subjects him to demeaning demands, and tells him he will have no more gains to show for his diplomacy until he fulfills Israel's demands; and on the other hand. Palestinian Islamists strike fear into the hearts of Israelis by bombing them in their own homes.

The inability of the PLO to significantly improve the life quality of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation has emphasised the PLO-Israel peace accord's real weaknesses, while neutralising its potential strengths. Perhaps this could not have been avoided, given the imbalance between

Israel's strong negotiating position and the frail Palestinian position. Nevertheless, fourteen months after it was signed the PLO-Israel accord appears to most Palestinians to be an ignoble and humiliating document, little more than a cruel, empty promise. Arafat and Company appear unable to make it work any better than it has to date, and the trigger-happy performance of the Palestinian police has only made Arafat look more brutish and repugnant in the

eyes of many of his own people.

This situation has been exploited by the Palestinian Islamists, though their position remains weakened by the fact that they cannot offer a credible alternative other than violent resistance. Nevertheless, for many Palestinians facing the choice between Arafat's slow motion surrender and the Islamists' heart-throbbing resistance, the Islamists look much more attractive.

Arafat has three obvious options, and one not so Arafat has three obvious options, and one not so obvious. The three obvious ones are, a) cracking down further on the Islamists (which will only make them stronger and more popular), b) speeding up the implementation of the peace accord by getting the Israelis to withdraw, holding the Palestinian elections and securing the international funds pledged for improving the Palestinian economy (which would revive his political credibility but perhaps not fully and a) keeping the situation as it is but perhaps not fully), and, c) keeping the situation as it is (which would slowly see his position become totally

The slightly less obvious option is for Arafat to address his two key partners, both of whom are hurting him, namely the Palestinian Islamists and the Israeli government. He might consider calling a Palestinian national conference, identifying the weaknesses in the peace accord, and then joining forces with the Islamists and demanding from Israel that the accords be renegotiated. The aim of reopening negotiations would be to address those issues that remained open in the current accord, namely settlements, refugees, Jerusalem and final borders and security.

If Arafat can address the weak points of the peace accord and show Israel that he speaks on behalf of all Palestinians, he may be able to bring enough pressure on Israel to sercure the concessions he needs. The Israeli government may have good cause to meet him halfway, for Arafat's downfall would also probably mark the downfall of Rabin and his Labour government and the return of a Likud-led government. It is in Israel's interest to see Arafat succeed. Clearly, if Arafat did nothing new in the coming months he could only survive this crisis by becoming an increasingly

autocratic, isolated and violent leader, and he would then surely be thrown out in a coup or a popular revolt.

The precipitous decline of the Palestinian authority in the last half year is not synonymous with the abdication of Palestinian national rights, for many Palestinians do not accept Arafat's leadership or his peace process. The frightening possibility that stares Palestinians in the face, however, is that Palestiman national rights may have little chance of being achieved through any process other than that which Arafat has now launched, because most of the Arab states have made it clear that they are prepared to make peace with Israel even if the Palestinian problem remains unresolved. In other words, the Palestinians are discovering that they may be relegated to a fate along the lines of Lebanon during its civil war, Bosma, Rwanda, Somalia, Iraq and other distressed lands — chronic domestic strife, human suffering, national denial, and the rule of local political gangs, while the rest of the world shrugs its shoulders in emotional sadness but political

This prospect is so demeaning for a Palestinian people who have struggled for their rights for nearly a century that it is unlikely to materialise. Unlikely, but still possible. This is why Palestinians are so desperate to get out of their present predicament, even at the risk of using their guns against each other. This is also what is happening in most of the rest of the Arab World, by the way — disenchanted, scared people turning to religion, and even to violence, to challenge or to change their political leaderships and their national policies.

Palestine is doing today what the rest of the Arabs did from the period between 1920 and the 1960s: it's trying to change from a situation of foreign occupation to one of self-rule and independence, and in the process domestic groups are competing for power. The fact that the Palestinians are the last Arabs struggling for independence. while the rest of the region seems to have taken its modern political shape, scares many Palestinians, because they fear that their rights might be sacrificed in the end to the region's obsession with stability and security.

This makes Arafat's challenge all the more urgent. He must improve the terms of the peace accord or implement it more quickly and meaningfully. How he responds to this challenge will largely determine if Palestine moves towards real national independence and rights, or if it slips into the bloody and neglected margins of modern history, where fear, anger and violence are chronic, and nobody cares.

# Can Arafat survive Gaza shootings?

By Robert Mahoney Reuter

GAZA - Palestinians had long expected tensions between Islamic opponents of the PLO-Israel peace deal and Yasser Arafat's fledgling government to burst into the

But when Arab actually began shooting Arab in the streets of Gaza, birthplace of the uprising against Israel, tised.

Threats of revenge for the killing of at least 13 Gazans by Mr. Arafat's police last Friday are now scrawled on walls and predictions of a slide to a Lebanese-style civil war abound. As the initial shock sub-

sides, Gazans are asking:

— Will the narrow band of Mediterranean coast crammed with one million impoverished and stateless people turn into another Beirut?

- Will the experiment in Palestinian self-rule, cornerstone of entire Arab-Israeli peace process, be under-

- Can Arafat survive the killing of his own people?
"We have all the ingredients for a civil war," replies Iyad Sarraj, a psychiatrist and member of a human

rights watchdog group.
"Polarisation is so acute, arms are everywhere, tension is high, and more than anything we have undisciplined armies on both sides," he said, referring to Mr. Arafat's security forces and gunmen from the Muslim groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad.



But he, like many other prominent Gazans, does not believe that the religious and clan differences are as explosive here as in Beirut.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad, both foes of Mr. Arafat's peace deal with Israel, have pulled back from the brink of

"Hamas is very concerned there be no civil war against Palestinians," said Sayyed Abu Musameh a Hamas leader who tried to mediate to cool passions after the

shootings. Hamas urged its fighters to turn their guns on Israelis, not Palestinians, as radical

vengeance.
The more moderate political elements in Hamas complained to Mr. Arafat that the shooting had weakened them and their attempts to reach a political accommoda-

gunmen and those who had

lost relatives vowed

tion with the Palestinian au-Mr. Arafat, ignoring calls

from Israel and hardliners in his own Fateh wing of the PLO for a crackdown, has courted not clubbed Hamas, which claims a 30 per cent

following in Gaza. Behind the militant Hamas rhetoric, much of which comes from outside, many leaders in Gaza do not want to see Mr. Arafat toppled, Hamas sources say.

They do not like the peace

process but realise they cannot halt it. They believe Mr. Arafat is the only one who

was moving quicker, these guys wouldn't even be

guys wouldn't even be trying to get into NATO. What they need is the eco-nomics," said a senior offi-cial. The EU is not ex-

pected to admit the East

Europeans before the turn

Enter the other "track"

of the century.

can steer the Palestinians through the shoals of the first stages of the self-rule deal with Israel.

"If we want influence to shape the outcome we have to talk with Arafat ... and continue our struggle against Israel," one Hamas official

Such sentiments are spurned by Hamas radicals who openly call Mr. Arafat a traitor, doing Israel's dirty work in Gaza and the West Bank. They say Mr. Arafat has no mandate to rule. Even if Hamas as an organisation vents its wrath on Israel rather than the PLO, they will avenge the deaths.

"There is a possibility of assassinations on both sides, and that could hit Arafat." said Mr. Sarraj, who pre-dicted a rollercoaster of violence and suppression for

some time to come. The prospect of instability could deter those private investors and international donors whose money Mr. Arafat needs to rebuild an economy shattered by occupation and by Israel's refusal for security reasons to

allow in Gazan workers. Just hours before Friday's shooting, the United Nations senior official for Gaza and the West Bank, Terje Larsen, warned donors the peace process and the legitimacy of the Palestinian authority faced potential collapse unless money arrived.

Haidar Abdul Shafi, a former peace negotiator trying to mediate between Hamas and the PLO, blamed Israel for not implementing the deal it signed with Mr. Arafat fully and quickly. Gazans had seen little economic or social benefit from peace and were losing faith in the process, he

Asked if Mr. Arafat had lost his legitimacy, Mr. Abdul Shafi was diplomatic. "It is too drastic to say that ... The work of the national authority is less than we expected, there are differences all around. (But) we are not silent. We hope things will improve."

### U.S. wants to expand NATO, boost CSCE ity concerns are not upper-

By Patrick Worsnip Reuter

WASHINGTON - The

United States is planning a major shift of emphasis on European security policy aimed at quickly expanding NATO while boosting the 53-nation European security conference, U.S. officials say. They say the aim is to

petter address the needs of former Soviet-bloc states that have thrown off communism and are now in a hurry to reach Western economic prosperity levels and assure their security in the oost-cold war world.

Since the Berlin Wall fell five years ago, these states have been clamouring to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the European Union and any other Western grouping that will have them.

Until recently, the U.S.led Western alliance had been holding them at arm's ength, offering them "part-

nership" with NATO but being vague on when they can actually join. Now, the idea is to admit

the first wave of new members, widely expected to comprise Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, sooner rather than later — in three to five years, U.S. officials say. NATO ministerial meet-

ings early next month are expected to agree guidelines for taking on new members, which will then face a difficult period of adjusting to alliance requirements on equipment and training, as well as financial costs.

But State Department officials say they have persuaded the Pentagon to stop dragging its feet over such issues. "The department of defence was saying up to two weeks ago that anything before the year 2000 was unrealistic," one official said. "They're not

saying that now." One of the main prob-lems with NATO expansion has long been that Russia, which is highly unlikely to be offered membership, most in the minds of East European states. "If the European Union strongly opposes the inclu-

Pact allies in the alliance. But Washington now maintains this is not an in-superable obstacle. "Key people (in Russia) have accepted the fact that NATO expansion is inevitable," said an administra-tion official. "All they want is for the process to happen in a transparent manner. If so, there has been little

sion of its former Warsaw

of the new U.S. policy --expanding the role of the Conference on Security and public sign of it so far.
"What we are objecting Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Born in the 1970s as a to is expansion of NATO in forum for debating Eastthe direction of the borders of the Russian federation, without giving the Russian

West detente and human rights, the CSCE has since federation a chance to be within NATO," a senior the end of the cold war been held up as a possible Russian official said in super-organisation to con-Washington last week. He trol European security. Russia, which belongs to added that the move could lead to calls for rearmament CSCE, would like it to dominate over NATO.

But the CSCE has so far failed to live up to its promise, held back from effective action by its rule of

near-consensus and by the determination of Western states that NATO will remain the top security body

in Europe.

Despite some useful work in tackling ethnic problems in the Baltic states, the CSCE has made little headway in resolving the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh and plans for it to send a peacekeeping force there now look in trouble.

The United States, after years of paying lip service to the organisation, now says its talk of upgrading the CSCE is for real despite the view of sceptics that it is designed mainly to compensate Russia for the expansion of NATO.

Officials say as evidence of this that a tussle within the U.S. administration over whether President Clinton should attend a CSCE summit in Budapest Dec. 5-6 has been decided in favour of him going.

The officials are still declining to discuss exactly what new powers the CSCE

could be given, or how it is going to overcome the consensus rule that has shackled it hitherto.

However, some officials have hinted that the CSCE, which currently has a tiny secretariat based in Vienna, could be given a more powerful council similar to that which NATO has, and may be renamed an organisation instead of a confer-

Apart from "preventive diplomacy" to head off new Yugoslavia-style wars. something the CSCE has aiready attempted with limited success, they suggest energy and environment questions could rise up its agenda.

Another suggestion is that it could take over responsibility for agreements preventing arms prolifera-

'Everything the (East European) emerging democracies need can be made available through the CSCE, but can't be through NATO, one official said.

## Features

#### Majali returns from Doha (Continued from page 1)

By Rami G. Khoun history

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strong bilateral ties based on mutual respect and advo-cated the cause of safeguarding the sovereignty of all states in the region and underlined the need for nonadout toward and be would be and the Control of th interference in the internal affairs of any country by destruction with the first trade of the feet to the first trade of the feet to another," it said. "The two countries stres-

sed the need for resorting to international laws and the In-ternational Court of Justice as a means to settle disputes among countries of the region so that higher national interests can be safeguarded and inter-Arab confidence deepened," it added.

The communique said the two sides discussed ending the Iraqi people's sufferings. "They reaffirmed the need for safeguarding Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and praised Baghdad's recent recognition of Kuwait in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution

833, voicing hope that the decision would signal the beginning of the return of

peace, security and stability to the Gulf region," it said. The two sides reviewed the situation in Bosnia and voiced support for the Bos-nian recole in other than nian people in their ordeal and condemned Serbian aggression on the Muslim

They appealed to the inter-national community to help put an end to aggression and implement U.N. resolutions. The two sides tackled preparations for an Islamic coun-

tries' summit meeting due to

be held in Morocco and reviewed topics on its agenda.
Dr. Majali voiced appreciation of the hospitality accorded to the Jordanian delegation during the visit and both sides voiced their pride in the Qatari and the Jordanian leaderships, expressing desire to pursue efforts in coordinating poli-cies in different fields.

### Rabin wins U.S. pledge

(Continued from page 1)

anything on that that would undermine the possibility of the parties making peace. I think that ought to be the position that all Americans ST District the total the state attended to the

U.S. foreign aid has come under fire from Republicans who are expected to make big cuts when they take over Congress next year.

Mr. Rabin had warned his cabinet following the Republicans' November 8 sweep of the congressional elections that the United more isolationist and "less inclined to pay out foreign

But Israel's \$3 billion in annual aid is considered safe for the time being, as is Egypt's \$2 billion package, since they are the main pillars of U.S. policy which are expected to hold steady under the new Republican congressional leadership. What Mr. Rabin is hoping

for, however, are extra funds to support Yasser Arafat in his struggle against the challenge by Islamic fun-

The Israeli leader is to meet Thursday with Mr. Arafat in Madrid on his way back home. Israeli and Palestinian

negotiators resume talks on self-rule elections and an army redeployment in the occupied West Bank next

An Israeli official said Mr. Rabin is seeking emergency contributions from donors, who have so far released only \$100 million of the \$700 million pledged for Palestinian self-rule for 1994.

Mr. Rabin on Monday accused Israeli hardiners of trying to sabotage his peace moves with Syria by lobbying in the United States against deploying American troops on the Golan Heights.

"Heed not the stupid, empty words being heard today as if out of concern for the Americans (but) which emerge from a desire to sabotage the chance of peace," he said in Washingon remarks broadcast on by Israel Radio.

Israeli media said three leading Israeli hardliners were trying to discourage U.S. lawmakers from backing any presence of U.S. troops on the Golan, even as monitors, in a future Israeli-Syrian peace deal."

### Kuwait, Russia sign deal

(Continued from page I)

Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, and Foreign Minister Sheikh

Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah. The emirate's information minister, Sheikh Saud Al Sabah, said there was "total agreement on and understanding of all issues discus-

The Russian official leaves Tuesday morning to the United Arab Emirates, the third leg of his Gulf tour that started in Saudi Arabia. He will also visit Oman.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister was quoted on Monday as saying Russia is reassuring Gulf states it wants Iraq to comply with the U.N. sanctions and does not just want them lifted.

Prince Saud Al Faisal, after meeting with Mr. Chernomyridan on Sunday, was quoted by Al Hayat newspaper as saying that Russian efforts "are not to lift sanctions against Iraq as much as to make Iraq implement all Security Council resolu-

"This is obvious not only to the kingdom (Saudi Arabia) and Russia but also to Iraq, he told the London-based newspaper.

### Paris 2000 — towards controlled growth

By Aurore Thierry

Ile-de-France, whose capital is Paris, is the biggest French region. Today it risks choking. The government and the city council are working on its future with a view to balancing its development with that of other regions and improving the everyday life of its inhabitants.

"Paris and the desert of the rest of France." Is this expression, used nearly thirty years ago, still valid today? Is all of France's energy concen-trated in Ile-de-France, with its 10.6 million inhabitants (19 per cent of the population of the whole country) in an area of only 12,000 square kilometres, to the detriment of her 22 other regions? Other figures also reveal how dynamic it is. The Paris region employs 22 per cent of the working population in the country and its unemployment rate is below the national average (7.4 per cent in 1990 compared with 9.4 in the provinces). The working population in the Paris area also includes many executives (41 per cent of the total num-

ment and town planning scheme" which has drawn up the main lines of the development of Ile-de-France and guided the public choices concerning infrastructures (roads, motorways, new towns, Regional Express Metro system, etc.), but it goes back to 1976.

So, few years ago, Michel Rocard, at that time, prime minister, but also the mayor of a town in Ile-de-France, set about having the "im-provement and town planning scheme" revised. His purpose was to draw up the general plans of the region for the year 2015, concerning means of transport, urban development, and the loca-tion of economic activities and amenities, particularly for training. This was no easy task and, in addition to members of the government and civil servants, it mobilised mayors, regional councillors and deputies, as well as representatives of professional organisations and associations, heads of firms, trade-

"Although other regions vegetate or find it hard getting off the ground, the rapid growth of the Paris area, in all directions, risks choking the region itself. There is already considerable traffic congestion on the roads and a saturation of public transport, increasing difficulties in housing (particularly for those of modest means), a scarcity of land, the giddying rise in the price of houses and flats, the disappearance of natural areas and an increase in pollution."

ber in France and researchers (59 per cent). The same is true of higher education as 28 per cent of French students are in Ile-de-France. The result of this is that its gross domestic product accounts for 28 per cent of the national This dynamism also has

its drawbacks. Although other regions vegetate or find it hard getting off the ground, the rapid growth of the Paris area, in all direction, risks choking the region itself. There is already considerable traffic congestion on the roads and a saturation of public transport, increasing difficulties in housing (particularly for those of modest means), a scarcity of land, the giddying rise in the price of houses and flats, the disappearance of natural areas and an increase in pollution. In short, the living conditions of the inhabitants in Be-de-France are gradually getting worse. These are adequate reasons for the government and regional authorities to set about implementing an improvement policy. It is true

Preliminary studies resulted in a report, in February 1990, presenting a detailed assessment and drawing the main lines for the future. After a long and sometimes stormy period of consultation within the commissions and work groups, inside the regional council, a rough draft of the plan was established in April. After a few modifications, it was finally adopted at a meeting of an Interministerial Town and Country Planning Com-

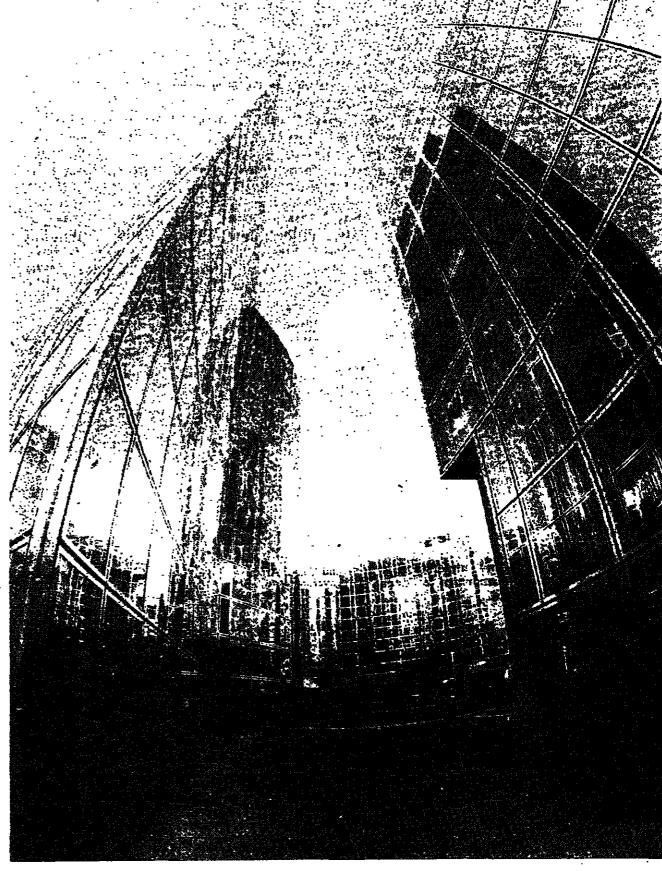
The essential point on which everybody agrees is that the demographic growth of the region has to be controlled, otherwise it will choke. The hypothesis is to limit the population to 12 million inhabitants (whereas spontaneous development would result in 13 million) and to offer 750,000 new jobs. These measures aim to satisfactorily meet the needs of the present residents and their children in housing, training, work, traffic, leisure and culture. This choice breaks with earlier trends. Thus, the outskirts of Grea-

ter Paris, that is to say "towns situated 30 or 40 kilometres from the capital which have received most of the growth, Other elements in the rough draft aim at the reestablishment of the balance should stop increasing. On the other hand, Paris, which between work and housing (at present, many inhabitants is becoming depopulated, of modest means live in the should receive more resieast and north of the region dents. The city has, moreover, undertaken to offer more and work in the west which is growing richer by having wealthier residents live there accommodation, particularly social housing, and to check and by receiving industrial and service activities with a the reduction of industrial and commercial jobs as well as ones in the small trades. On the other hand, offices, high added value); the diversification of accommodation in each town; the rehabilita-tion of dilapidated districts; which have mushroomed to the detriment of housing, the promotion of five centres should no longer be encoursaid to be "of European exaged, particularly in the west

north, Marne-la-Vallee-EuroDisney in the south-east, Saclay-Massy-Orly in the south and La Défense in the west); a continuation in the growth of new towns (extension and the creation of universities); a strengthening of average-sized towns such as Fontainebleau or Rambouillet and the development of market towns in rural areas (Provins, or Coulom-

Similarly, public transport also needs to be rethought and public funding devoted, in priority to it (the Regional Express Metro systems needs to be doubled, new quick links need to be created between Paris and Roissy, and between new towns, and there should be interconnections with the TGV (highspeed train). Private finance ing should also be sought for future motorways. The en-vironment should not be forgotten either as there will be a "green plan" for the protection of forests, valleys, exceptional ecological settings, agricultural areas as well as plans for water, quarries, waste disposal and noise. The final scheme will be voted at the end of 1992.

L'atualite eu France



Crucial choices before 2000 for a Paris of the future

## Time to speak out

(Continued from page 1)

teraction is interpreted as sexual harassment depends on who says what under which circumstances. It is also a culture-specific

But when a woman says no, she means no, and that is what many men do not want to understand or accept. "There is a clear distinction between friendinteraction and sexual harassment, and it is known to the man," says Dr. Amiri.

In her mind, sexual harassment is a way to seclude women. "Indirectly the man is telling the woman that the street is not her place, that her place is the home, if she wants to be respected," Dr. Amiri explains, adding that "in many cases harassment actually leads to the seclusion of women, because parents, out of fear that their daughters might be harassed, lock them up in the

Experts underline that sexual harassment of women is a universal phenomenon, to be found in all patriarchal societies. The types and intensity of narassment, however, vary according to cultural circumstances. "In a strongly male-oriented, gender-segregated society, men need to reaffirm their male identity constantly in front of other men, and one way to reaffirm this identity is to prove themsleves in front of women," says Dr.

The socio-economic situation also has its

effects: While sexual relationships are limited exclusively to marriage, unem-ployment and low wages make it increasingly difficult for many young men to get married, a situation which causes sexual frustra-

Sabri Rubeihat, a former police officer, sociologist and TV presneter who has carried out scientific studies about violence against women, says that the strong sex segregation in Jordanian society contributes to the sexual frustration of men.

"Many men do not know how to interact properly with women because they never had the chance to learn it." he says.

Ms. Dajani think this explanation is an excuse.
"Men do interact with women," she says, "they interact with their mothers, their sisters, their fellow students, at work. They have the opportunity. They simply refuse to accept them as equal."

Besides gender segrega-tion, it is lack of social control that leads men to indecent behaviour, states Dr. Rubeihat. Contrary to the neighbourhood, where everybody knows each other the street is an anonymous place where men do not have to fear

sanctions, he says. Basma, a nursing student, has her own explanation. "I do not wear a veil, but I care a lot about Islamic values. I think that too many men have abandoned Islamic values, which forbid this kind of behaviour towards women on the

that there is an "improve-

But what about the application of the penal code under these circumstances?

Ms. Khader, who is also

a lawyer and human rights

activist, says that quite a few working women have come to her office to ask for advice because they had been sexually harassed at the workplace. "But when it comes to legal action, most of the women refrain from taking their case to court. Many of them are afraid of sullying their reputation or that their families might prevent them from going out to work," says Ms. Khader. Apart from the fear of losing their honour, Ms. Khader adds, many women are not able to name witnesses which make legal action virtually impossible.

On the street, women often simply remain silent and try to ignore sexual harassment, because, as they say, the culprit usually feels encouraged rather than intimidated by the woman's protest. On the other hand, if the man is known to the woman's father or brother, he can be beaten up severely, "so the woman thinks twice before causing the man serious

Nevertheless, a considerable number of women have developed ways to defend themsleves. Some like Basma, shout at the man, to draw public attention on him and appeal to his sense of honour: "I often ask them: What would you do if somebody said this to your sister? Many times the man would feel ashamed and rush away," Basma

trouble," says Basma.

Other girls and women resort to more drastic measures. "My 17-year-old daughter slapped a young man in the face last week when he made a shameful comment," says Dr. Amiri.

Annie, a secretary, says she beat a man, threw him on the foor and called her brothers when he grabbed her from the back. Marwa, a bank em-

ployee, always carries small teargas sprayer. "I show it to anyone who dares to approach me in a threatening manner, physically or verbally," she says. "For me, verbal harassment is a kind of rape - call it men-

The dimensions of sexual harassment are at times surprising. "A few days ago, I stopped at a traffic light," says Ms. Dajani. The man in the car next to mine stared at me the entire two or three minutes we had to wait. I felt so embarrassed, I did not know where to look. I felt this was an intrusion of my privacy.

Sometimes even the presence of a husband is not enough to protect the woman from being approached. "Last week, my husband and I took a taxi downtown, says Martha, a British woman married to a Jordanian. When we entered the car, the driver asked my husband how much I would take an hour. We got off

the taxi immediately. A female journalist says that while interviewing a policeman with a microphone, she was grabbed from the back by his colleague. "I could not believe it," she savs. "I had she says. "I had thought the police was

there to protect me from this kind of thing."

Few women take the pain of reporting sexual harassment to police. On the other hand, men in particular, but, astonishingly enough also women, often do not recognise sexual harassment as a problem.

"Once a guy tried to kiss a woman inside our faculty building. We reported the event to the dean of the faculty and asked him to take action, but nothing happened," a group of female students at the University of Jordan says. It is apparently difficult

to talk about sexual harassment in public, but women's experiences indicate that it is high time to do so. "I think sexual harassment ia s problem, and probably, particularly the women themselves, should speak about it. Newspapers, radio and television should raise the issue," says Basma.

Women should be encouraged to request their rights and to protest against sexual harassment. whenever it occurs, she says. Specific law rules and punishment can have an effect, but are of limited value, since they do not solve the underlying prob-

"Of course, our cultural and moral values are different from others, and every culture judges behaviour according to its own stan-dards, 'says Dr. Rubeihdat. "But we live in the modern world, where women participate naturally in public life. Men. all men, must learn to interact with women on equal and respectful basis, whether at home or in public."

### Algerian opposition meets

(Continued from page 1)

violence erupted after the military cancelled the January 1992 second round of general elections the fundametalist party was poised

Mokhtar Maghrawi, the group's advisor for relations with the United States, told the symposium "mass murder and assassination have become the norm" for the Algerian authorities, charging that torture experts" had been drafted in from Egypt to that

He also attacked Paris, which has outlawed the FIS on its territory, for its cowardly colonial practicese," including banning the Islamic head scarves in

The FIS was banned when schools, and "disguised presence" in Algeria.

Mr. Haddam said his group had accepted Sant' Egidio's invitation in order to "exchange our points of view in a free environment."

The talks could be a "staging post towards serious negotiations," he said. But in a reference to

Algiers's will ingness to de-bate the country's crisis with other legal opposition par-ties, he warned that "those who attempt to sideline one or other part of the mujahedeen will prolong and inten-

sify the bloody conflict. Mr. Haddam told journalists that government recognition of the FIS was the only way out of the current impasse, and that "terrorism" was the province of the state's security forces.

Mr. Ben Yahya charged that the authorities had imprisoned 17,000 people most "administrative" detainees - in camps in southern Algeria since 1992.

The Sant'Egidio commun-: ity and the participants them-selves described the symposium as a "first contact" between FIS representatives: and the Algerian opposition. and stressed that it in no way stood for official negotia-

The seriousness with which the Algerian authorities viewed the affair was expressed by a weekend summons tothe Italian ambassador in Algiers, Patrizio Schmidlin, and to Catholic Nuncio Edmond Ferhat, to the fore-

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SATURDAY: Happy hour night

# Khalaf says proper interaction with Israel will benefit Jordan

By Samir Shafiq Ghawi Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf sees the peace era ushering three main developments: opening to the Israeli economy, change of perception by investors towards the Mideast and reconstruction of the Palestinian economy after the occupation ends.

. Speaking at a business dinner hosted by the Jordan Trade Association Sunday evening, Dr. Khalaf said Jordanian exports face two challenges - how to penetrate the Israeli market and how to cope with the additional competition in traditional markets as these markets will be open to Israeli products as a result of ending the Arab boycott of Israel.

Dr. Khalaf pointed out that it would not be easy to sell in Israel because of intense competition. American and European products enter Israel free of customs because of free trade agreements signed with the coun-, tries, she noted.

The minister said that specifications and incentives outcould play a role in reducing the volume of industrial goods or produce which

could be exported.

Dr. Khalaf briefly described the Israeli economy by highlighting the following

1) Total Israeli economic output amounts to \$65 billion, more than the economic output of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Palestine put together. Per capita income exceeds \$13,000 (1992) compared to \$1,120 for Jordan.

2) Industry represents 31 per cent of gross domestic product, one third of industrial output being in the equipment and electronic sector.

3) Products exported by Israel are valued at \$14 billion, of which \$13 billion are industrial. Israeli exports are of high quality as well as competitive as Europe and America import two-thirds of these exports.

 Israel's economy gets new technical and scientific skills every year through immigration. Immigrants of such skills represent 70 per cent of the total of new im-

migrants.
5) Free financial assistance



Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf addressing a group of industrialists and businessmen Sunday

evening (Petra photo) and transfers amount to \$6.5

billion each year. 6) Israel spends \$3 billion a year on developing and upgrading its infrastructure of roads, water network, electricity and industrial parks.

7) Israeli industrial products enjoy total exemption from customs in the European Union countries and in the United States as well as the countries of the European Free Trade Association

(EFTA). Similarly European and American products have a special competitive edge in Israel as they are customs-

8) Spending on research and development in Israel amounts to 2.4 per cent of national income. This per-centage exceeds what each of France, Britain and Korea spend on research and de-

Despite driving home the message of the Israeli economy being technologically advanced and characterised by stiff competition, Dr. Khalaf saw the Israeli market as one with a consumption

volume of \$60 billion. The minister said she saw large opportunities to export to the Israeli market, due to its size and its geographic location bordering Jordan, and predicted a hig increase

in foreign exchange earnings as well as an increase in production and employment.

However, the minister stressed the need to upgrade the quality of Jordanian products and to concentrate on labour-intensive products which benefit from the relative advantage of low wages.

"Investing to improve the quality is well-worthy and gives returns that by far ex-

ceed the costs" she asserted. Dr. Khalaf further elaborated on the challenges facing the openness of Jordan to the Israeli economy by bringing up the disequilibrium in abour matters especially the large wage differential be-

tween the two markets. "Such a differential will give rise to pressure and to economic forces to hire the less costly labour in the production of goods or in providing services," she pointed

As such, "these forces will push in one of two directions: Either the labour flows to the market of higher return and thereby Jordanian labourers move to work in Israel or in Palestine, or the capital flows to the low-cost country and thereby Jordan would attract the investment for meeting the need of cheap production

The minister said Jordan's own policies and investment climate would determine which way labour or investments would move.

However, what Dr. Khalaf saw as more important and much beneficial than the increase of production and employment, were the opportu-

nities that would result if foreign investments choose Jordan as their base in the

region. Foreign investment is the tool to transfer the technology and efficient productive practices would improve the quality and boost competi-

tiveness," she said. But she cautioned that there would be fierce competition over foreign investment which would vary depending on the investment climate in the countries of the region.

We enjoy relative advantages in terms of production costs and financial stability but we have certain shortages in the infrastructure and legal aspects. Our investment environment suffers from a weak public sector and low efficiency which result in vagueness in applying the laws and in unjustified complexities in the work process," Dr. Khalaf conceded.

The minister told the audience that the government was keen to build the right economic structure for the coming era and urged the private sector to play a leading role to enhance the national interests of the Kingdom.

### U.S. needs to raise interest rates substantially — OECD

WASHINGTON (R) - The United States must raise interest rates substantially over the year to curtail inflation and keep the economic expansion on track, according to the influential Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

In its annual survey of the U.S. economy, the OECD also urged Washington to cut spcial security pension benefits and tackle growing inequities between rich and poor to help ensure America's long-term financial well-

The Paris-based OECD acts as a think tank for rich mendations are not binding but can play a role in shaping economic policy of its mem-

The organisation said it exto slow moderately next year - to 2.9 per cent from 3.8 per cent this year — and inflation to accelerate modestly — to 2.8 per cent from 2.1 per cent, as measured by the gross domestic price de-

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"(Economic) performance has been remarkably good over the past two years, and the fundamentals seem sound for the immediate future, the 26-nation OECD said.

But it warned that an eco-nomic bust could follow un-Jess the economy is cooled off through higher interest ra-

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have to rise substantially more by the end of 1995," it

The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) the nation's central bank, last week raised shortterm rates by three-quarters of a percentage in its boldest attack on inflation in 13 years.

The move, which was criticised by labour and corporate leaders as unwarranted. pushed three-month treasury

bill rates up to 5.3 per cent. The OECD sees those rates averaging 6.3 per cent in the second half of 1995 and warned they may need to rise even more to prevent inflation from increasing too much or the dollar falling too

The dollar dropped to a against the Japanese yen earlier this month, but has since recovered somewhat, thanks partly to heavy buying by Washington and comments by U.S. Treasury Secretary Iloyd Bentsen that he favoured a strong U.S. cur-

The OECD warned. however, that the dollar could face fresh selling pressure if the Fed does not raise interest rates far enough or

fast enough. Without adequate and timely policy trightening, it is unlikely that any amount of exchange-market intervention or supporting commen-

"Short-term rates will tary will succeed in satisfying the concerns of private international investors," the organisation said.

The United States will remain heavily dependent on those investors to finance its economy next year as the OECD expects America's current account deficit, which include trade in goods and services, to widen to \$161 billion in 1995 from \$147 billion this year.

That's why it's vital to reduce the government budget deficit, the organisation said. And health care reform alone won't be enough.l

"It is in social security that far-sighted policy makers will have to seek further cuts." the OECD said.

That recommendation is sure to raise the ire of Presipost World War II low dent Clinton, who vowed repeatedly during his Democratic Party's recent losing con gressional election campaign not to cut social security. In other politically charged

comments, the OECD backed comprehensive health care reform, voiced some doubts about the efficacy of welfare reform and said a radical overhaul of the tax system might be useful to discourage consumption and promote

It also gave poor marks to America's primary and secondary education system, calling it "mediocre best" and saying it did not serve the poor well.

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# Arab Gulf financial markets need liberalisation

DUBAI (R) — Arab Gulf states need to liberalise share trading and their financial sectors to develop the region's markets, analysts said.

The GCC countries must push for shares to be traded across boundaries forming in effect a regional capital market," Henry Azzam, chief economist at Saudi Arabia's National Commercial bank, said at a banking conference Sunday.

"A regional market would ... help to avoid the problems encountered because of the small size of the local mar-

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain.

There are few bond issues partly due to the absence of a regional ratings agency and some GCC governments do not allow foreign or other Gulf banks to operate in their

"(They should) pull down

kets, pool resources and provide financial institutions with greater placing power," the barriers separating the already small financial markets of the GCC, which have proven so far to be working basically to the disadvantage of the GCC financial operators," Abdul Wahab Al Tammar, former governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, told the conference.

He said financial institutions should "prepare for a future based on a single GCC market.

But Abdulla Al Saudi, former chief executive of Arab Banking Corp (ABC) said Arab banks continued to suffer from the "parochial inservices. terests" of the Gulf coun-

"In the case of ABC and many other banks, we have tried to serve our home market, but we have found our home market mostly unwelcoming and protectionist even against its own," he

explained. He said until Arab banks were able to pursue regional business more freely "I think we can only hold out modest ambitions for Gulf banks' ability to satisfy the region's

demands for global financial

Analysts also said Gulf financial institutions needed to adhere to international standards of accounting and disclosure to boost their cre-

Jassim Al Mannai, director general of the Arab Monetary Fund, said Gulf states should set up a consistent regulatory framework to encourage a secondary capital market and introduce deposit insurance schemes to boost

come are in effect during the day but tonight avoid the public lime-

LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo-

ber 22) This is the day for you to get into whatever obligations you have assumed as you can do

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Sit down and talk

out reasonably and amicably a problem with an associate and it

is soon solved but tonight don't continue the discussion.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22

to December 21) A fine day to

commence the week by achieving fine result where your promised

work is concerned so get at duties early, later avoid a discon-

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to

January 20) You can start the week with real vision and im-

agination about how to make your creative skills work in your

belief but tonight force work

get into new interests.

### Oman begins privatisation of electricity sector

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf state of Oman has started privatising its electricity sector as part of overall reforms to make its economy industry sources in the region

A \$70 million company is being established to set up the first major power station to be operate. by the private sector while two other similar projects will be carried out soon. : sources said. The United Energy Com-

pany (UEC) has started floating around 11 million shares worth \$30 million for local and foreign investors while \$45 million have been subscribed by its founding shareholders.

Three Belgian companies are shareholders in the com-

GOT ONE. SIR

pany while the International tion with the private sector. Finance Corporation has contributed around \$4 million, part of its participation in and Minah, a sewage project privatisation plans in the sul- in Muscat at a cost of \$599

UEC is the first private power company to be created in the Gulf, where most countries have embarked on reforms to offset weak oil

Saudi Arabia, the world's leading oil producer and exporter, also has plans to privatise its large electricity and telephone sectors.

Oman has launched the biggest reform programme in the region as it has opened its stock market to citizens from other Gulf states, sold five key institutions to the public and is planning to set up major projects in participa-

The projects include two electricity plants in Salalah Salalah at a cost of \$130 million, a \$700 million pet-

billion gas . liquefaction plant. Another ambitious project involves building a pipeline to supply natural gas to India at a cost of more than \$5

rochemical complex and \$9

billion. But it was not clear if the private sector would be allowed to participate. Oman has invited scores of companies and private investors from around the world for a conference in Muscat next month to explain its

reforms, which it hopes will

attract foreign capital,

#### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY NOVEMBER 22, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: AT associate may argue seriously with a higher-up today but be sure that you don't get pulled into discussion for no matter where you stand on the subject you will lose. Keep occupied with your own tasks.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Start the week right by getting into property interests that require attention and build up a new structure while tonight avoid

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can take a good look at yourself during the day and can improve conscientiously whatevimprove conscientiously whatever requires up-uting while tonight keep your purse/wallet zinner!

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You need to get private informa-tion for a better way to have your mundane affairs channelled in

the days ahead and tonight study plans for the future. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can make considerable progress in gaining a long time desire so concentrate upon this today and tonight don't let a worry get you down.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Start today right by tackling out-side duties during the daytime and you make big progress while tonight don't try to gain a difficult personal aim.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) All kinds of advanced plans that can be helpful to your

THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Kenworthn

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't hesitate this first day of a new week to carry

ough with what you have seed to do for family members and tonight avoid expensive ple

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Getting out the various comnications that await you attention can be done with de-tailed efficiency now after which

-Birthstone of November: Topaz-Tiger's Eye

**Andy Capp** 



CAN'T PLAY FOOTBALL

GLASSES ARE FOGGED UP.

I CAN'T SEE A THING ..

IN THE RAIN, SIR ... MY





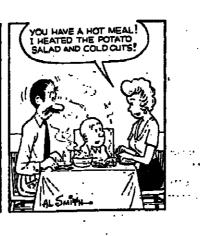


### **Mutt'n'Jeff**



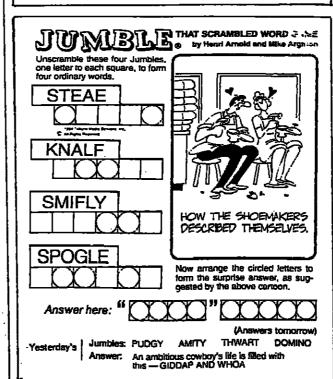


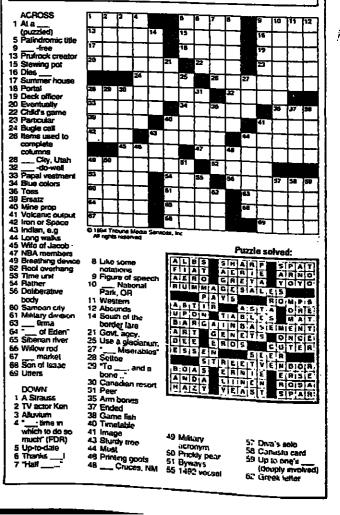






"Renewing your vows should be like renewing your driver's license. There should be a written exam."





# Jordan

Markets

Sterling Pound

Deutsche Mark

Swiss Franc

French Franc

Sterling Pound

Deutsche Mark

Swiss Franc

French Franc

Sterling Pound

Swiss Franc

French Franc

Japonese Yen\*

Dutch Guilder

Swedish Kroas

italian Lira

Belgian Franc

Deur Currencies

Bahraini Dinas

Lebanese Lira

Saudi Riyal

Kuwaiti Dinar

Qatari Riyal

Omani Riyal

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U.S. Dollar in International Market

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New York

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Arab fund moots setting

incorporated companies and

provide investors with reli-

able and up to date informa-

Arab companies are rarely

rated by major world institu-

tions like Standard Poors and

Moody's although many are

rated by a Cyprus-based

igency.
Mr. Mannai said that in its

efforts to develop Arab

financial markets, the AMF

had recently set up a stock

market database, linking six

countries — Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Morocco,

the investment opportunities

available at these stock ex-

"It gives an idea about all

The system was still on

trial, but "if it is successful it

will provide a great advan-

tage to identifying investment opportunities," he said.

### Committee | ### Committeee | ### Committee | ### Committee | ### Committee | ### Committee

Canadian dollar

Deutschemarks

Dutch guilders

Swiss francs

French francs

Japanese yen

Danish crowns

Swedish crowns

Norwegian crowns

Italian lire

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and

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\$1.5676\*86.

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bullion markets Monday.

One sterling

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.3662/72

One ounce of gold \$383.40/383.80

Tunisia and Oman.

changes," he said.

tion on these companies,"

Mr. Azzam said.

up rating agency

DUBAI (R) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) was

assessing the feasibility of establishing a ratings agency for Arab companies, AMF Director General Jassim Al

Addressing a banking con-ference Sunday, Mr. Mannai

said: "We are trying to estab-lish the feasibility of setting

up a ratings agency in con-junction with a major inter-

national financial institution

the Arab World's prime financial institution, did not

name the foreign financial

Henry Azzam, chief eco-

nomist at Saudi Arabia's

National Commercial Bank,

said that to encourage the

development of a private

bond market, corporate

"Credible rating agencies in the region could be estab-

lished to carry periodic credit

needed to get ratings.

house involved.

Mr. Mannai, the head of

to rate Arab companies."

Mannai said.

other that would bould be larger measurems charge in the Percupy investment is the Total for in treation of the highlight their terminates of charles as and efficient Productive the product in the court of chapte and promine the But the continued that Betitum of the parties of the their which wants and do bargegere eine iffe in eine gea detty of the continue of the To Special Me carry of the dist tages at terms of moduling tages as a few to the district territorial transfer and the transfer an in the introduction that and less and the property of the same negligible of the party of the same o Approximate and a service of them of would britain the and in which the relation to the first terminal SACHEREN AS ATTAME THE laws and in according conpication in the well pretrue | Dr. K. a. | Pleaseded The manager and the audi Creat fruit the comments and here is the family of the state of the Pite steneture for the coming Constant to the second

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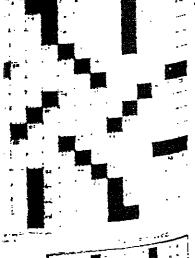
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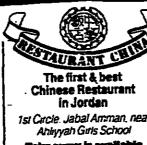


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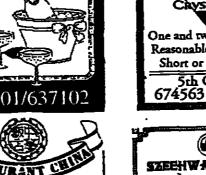
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# **Daily Business Beat**

The following is a new column summarising financial and economic news that appeared a day earlier in Jordan's Arabic dailies. The news is compiled by our economic editor Samir Shafiq Ghawi.

\* A LARGE industrial delegation, led by Chamber of Industry President Khaldoun Abu Hassan, will visit Iraq soon (Sawt Al Shaab).

\*\* Post and Communications Minister Hashem Dabbas

said that studies are to be conducted for expanding the Kingdom's telephone network at a cost of about JD 200 million (Sawt Al Shaab).

Al Zara-Ghor Hadithah road which runs alongside the Dead Sea and is expected to be a vital link between the northern and southern regions of the Kingdom (Ad-Dustour).

\*\* The Jordan Cement Factories Co. Ltd. is preparing studies to increase production in the next year by one million tonnes to reach an annual output of 4.5 million tonnes (Ad-Dustour).

\*\* Subscription to the shares of Al Qemma Plastic for Construction Industry Company totalled JD2,106,744 worth of shares picked up by 702 investors. As the floatation was only for 1,250,000 shares, subscribers will be receiving nearly 60 per cent of their subscription (Ad-

\*\* Goods shipped on the vessel OKHA will be late to arrive in Anaba as the vessel was grounded at the entrance of Tiran Straits. Goods are reported undamaged but, still, vessel owners invoked the "general average" insurance clause (Al Ra'i).

\*\* Some types of cigarettes imported through the Ministry of Supply have been missing from the market and some merchants are inclined to think that the ministry intends to raise foreign cigarette prices before resuming their distribution. Prices of smuggled cigarettes have increased (Ad-

\* Owners of "popular restaurants" are not satisfied with

the 10 per cent increase, claiming it does not cover production costs. The restauranteurs want a 15 per cent, increase. The public opposes any price rise as the popular chickpeas (hummos) and broad beans (foul) are the basic daily meals of labourers and limited-income citizens. "I cannot afford to eat hamburgers or meat sandwiches, and hummos and foul are our preferred food and will remain

★★ Hikmat Kutob Oteishat is the first woman to run for the chamber of commerce elections since the chamber was established in 1993. She intends to give due care to all problems in the commercial sector if she wins. Ms. Kutob Qteishat, who owns a store in the city centre, relies mostly on votes of women who own shops and stores in Amman (Ad-Dustour).

\*\* An official at the Ministry of Agriculture explained that about this time each year prices of vegetables rise due to short supply caused by lower agricultural output as farmers begin to prepare for planting in hot houses (Al

\* Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif said that the Ministry of Supply does not pay the farmers an encouraging price for their grain crops. He added that that might make farmers turn to other non-irrigated crops (Al Aswag). \*\* Jordan and Gulf Real Estate and Investment Company has raised its capital to JD4.5 million and is preparing to join a group of companies under the name of "Al Ittihad (union) for Land Development" with a capital of JD20 million to be the largest company of its type in the local market (Al Aswaq).

\* Industrial Development Bank (IDB) General Manager Taher Kanaan does not want to continue in his job after his term expires in February 1995. An official source at the bank said Dr. Kanaan had informed the board of directors of his decision. He was appointed as IDB head in 1989 (Al

### Iraq plans to buy 20 airliners after sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq plans to buy 20 airlines to replace the obsolescent fleet now stranded in foreign capitals, once U.N. trade sanctions are eased or lifted, Iraqi Airways Director General Rabi Abdul Baqi said Monday.

"I have in mind to ask for 20 new planes to replace our ageing fleet;" Mr. Abdul Baqi told Reuters.

"We also will need at least four Jumbo cargo planes. That will be hardly enough to meet the needs when sanctions are eased." he added.

He said priority in buying the aircraft will be given to countries which have helped Iraq in its struggle against the crippling sanctions imposed for Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

This was an apparent reference to France, which has pushed for the lifting of the

anctions.

He said Baghdad will try to reactivate a deal with European consortium Airbus for the purchase of 10 aircraft. He said Iraq had already paid \$10 million of the \$6 billion cost and that the two sides were negotiating on proceeding once sanctions were

Iraq dispersed its fleet of 15 Boeing airliners to foreign airports to protect them against possible attack shortly before the 1991 Gulf war. Six of the Boeings are said to be in Amman and four in

Tunis. A further five are in The sanctions have sealed Iraqi airspace but Mr. Abdul Bagi said the air ban was "inhuman" and against inter-

national law.

Mr. Abdul Baqi said Iraqi engineers were doing their best to keep the planes in Amman and Tunis maintained but the Iranians had not allowed any Iraqi engineer "to even see the airlin-

Iraq also flew to Tehran 22 Soviet-built Ilvushin 76 transports in addition to more than 100 advanced military aircraft.

Mr. Abdul Baqi said Iraq of its planes in Iran. "Tehran might be operating them for domestic routes or even might have cannibalised them

for spare parts." He said Iraq's civil airports and air traffic control systems, badly damaged during the Gulf war, were now fully

operational.

### Nissan, Mazda post loss; others enjoy profit gains

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese carmakers have reported mixed results in the six months to September, with Honda Motor Corp. posting a profit gain but Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. and Mazda Motor Corp. suffering bigger

Five carmakers — Honda, Mitsubishi Motors Co., Suzuki Motor Corp., Daihatsu Motor Co. Ltd. and Hino Motors Co. Ltd. — reported a rise in pre-tax profit as domestic car demand showed a gradual recovery in the first

Japan's overall automobile sales in October rose 4.1 per cent to 389,443 units for the fifth consecutive monthly rise, the Japan Automobile Dealers Association reported earlier this month.

But Nissan and Mazda, along with Nissan Diesel Motor Co. Ltd. and Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd., were left behind, with a combined lose of 92 billion yen (\$920 million) on the back of a

stronger yen. While most Japanese carmakers, including Nissan Diesel and Fuji Heavy, forecast a modest recovery in the second half, Nissan and Maz-

losses totalling 93 billion yen for the full year to March 1995.

Honda said Friday its group pre-tax profit surged 151.9 per cent from a year earlier to 56.7 billion yen. Sales rose 6.2 per cent to 1,991 billion yen, with over-seas revenue of 1,348 billion yen, up 10 per cent.

"This increase in revenue resulted primarily from higher sales volume of automobiles in North America and Europe," the company "As a result of the termina-

tion of the crossshareholdings between the company and Rover Group Limited consolidated income before income taxes and net income for the first half increased," Honda said. For the full year, Honda

forecast a net profit of 60 billion yen, up from its earlier estimate of 52 billion yen, on sales of 3,991 billion yen.

"Favourable sales of the Accord and Acura Integra models in North America, as well as the Accord and Civic models in Europe, contributed to the increase in re-

venue," it said. Sales in Canada and the da have already projected United States rose nine per cent to 852 billion yen while sales in Europe jumped 21 per cent to 247 billion yen. But domestic sales fell one per cent to 643 billion yen.

Sales in other regions rose three per cent to 249 billion Nissan announced a pretax loss of 58 billion yen, compared with the loss of 29

billion yen a year earlier. Sales fell 12 per cent to 1,570 billion yen. For the full year, Nissan forecast the worst ever re-

sults, with a pre-tax profit of 60 billion yen, revised down from a initial break even prediction, on sales of 3,400 billion yen, down 5.2 per

Mitsubishi said its pre-tax profit rose 1.1 per cent to 17 billion yen on sales of 1,225 billion yen, up 0.7 per cent.

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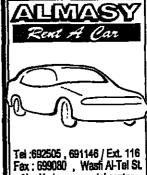
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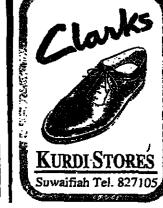
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Gabriela Sabatini returns a shot during her Virginia Slims final against Lindsay Daven-

## Sabatini captures Slims title ending 30-month dry spell

NEW YORK (AP) - After winning that match so easy wandering the tennis wastelands for more than 21/2 years, Gabriela Sabatini has once again discovered the winning touch. It may have come just in time to save women's tennis.

"It's not just winning the title," Sabatini said after taking the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships Sunday. "It means more the way I won the title, the way I played. I was confident the whole week.

Her return to form was the good news for women's tennis, which has experienced plenty of the other kind.

- This was the week that Martina Navratilova retired. - Monica Seles is still nowhere to be seen on a tennis

court.

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- Jennifer Capriati has just begun a comeback after being known in the past year for her escapa es with police. - Steffi Graf, while still No. 1 is reportedly ready to undergo surgery on her bad back.

Just when it looked darkest, Sabatini again became a -bright light.

Six years ago, Sabatini won this unique 16-player tournament, when she followed two years later by wining the U.S. Open, she was considered to be on the verge of stardom.

Instead, she soon became a 3'whatever happened to...' and fell from third to ninth in the world. Her last title came in May 1992, when she won the Ita-Jian Open. A year later, she sustained her most shocking

French Open quarterfinals to Mary Joe Fernandez after jumping out to what appeared to be an insurmountable 6-1, 5-1 lead. "That was the toughest one," Sabatini admits. "I was

loss, bowing in the 1993

and playing great that year. I really thought I had a chance to win the tournament. "After I lost that match, I

was so frustrated, so disappointed, that it didn't go my way that it took me actually a few weeks to forget about it. ...It was really tough, you know, to forget about that and to start playing again, start being focused

She solved all those problems Sunday when she beat 18-year-old Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in the only best-of-5-sets final the women play. On this day at Madison Square Garden, it was Davenport who was unable to cope with a plethora of unsolvable problems presented by Sabatini.

"I think when I didn't start off that well, I got a little frustrated, but she was part of the reason," Davenport said. "She was chipping balls low and top-spinning them high, and hitting them short. hitting them deep, and I couldn't get a rhythm, so she was definitely one of the major reasons.

It was at times an odd match, one in which Sabatini always seemed to be in control, but one in which neither player was able to consistently hold serve.

Davenport began the match by holding at love. The next time she held her service, she was down a set and a trailing 4-1 in the second. "I knew what I had to do,"

Sabatini said. "She hits the ball hard and very deep, so I knew I had to play deep and my shots had to be very aggressive and move her around. I also had to try to mix the game, not to let her play the same."

One of the biggest hitters in

ni, who kept changing spins, pace and direction. Davenport began the third set by breaking Sabatini at 15, aided by three doublefaults, the Argentine's ninth, 10th and 11th of the match. And when she broke Sabatini again in the seventh game, Davenport put the set back on serve

the women's game when her

feet are set, Davenport was

kept on the move by Sabati-

But she had to serve again with Sabatini leading 5-4. This time, like so many times during the match, she failed to hold serve.

The final point came on a perfectly crafted backhand passing shot set up when Davenport's forehand hit the net and bounced high, that left her vulnerable and standing near the net.

Sabatini came into this tournament unseeded, after defeating Navratilova, Julie Halard of France, No. 8 Kimiko Date of Japan and Davenport. Sabatini moved up one spot in the world rankings, to eighth.

Davenport said she wasn't the same player who had advanced to the title match by defeating Germany's Anke Huber, fourth-seeded Jana Novotna of Czech Republic and No. 5 Mary Pierce of France. Despite the loss, her ranking rose from seventh to six, switching places with Navratilova.

"This was by far my biggest and my best result," Davenport said. "I made a lot of errors and I was pretty ner-

"If I could get in this position a little more, I'll feel a little more calm and relaxed out there.

"But this week has taught It worked to perfection, me that I really like tennis.

One of the biggest hitters in This is what it's for."

### Sampras boosts ranking with ATP win SPORTS IN BRIEF

FRANKFURT (AP) — Two Grand Slams, eight other ti-tles, record earnings, top ranking safe. Not a bad year. But Pete Sampras thinks it could have been better.

Sampras won the Australian Open in Janaury, Wimbledon in the summer, and the IBM/ATP Tour world championship for the second time Sunday.

'This ends the year on a great, great note," Sampras said after beating Boris Becker 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

"It gives me a bit of satisfaction. It's a good win here because the fall hasn't been so great," said Sampras, who also won here in 1991.

The American collected \$1,225 million for his victory and brought his 1994 earnings to . \$3,607,812, an annual record for the tour.

Sampras began the year so strongly that he looked almost invincible. But injuries slowed him after his second Wimbledon title and he was beaten in the round of 16 at the U.S. Open

Defeats by Andre Agassi and Becker last month on European Indoor Courts took some shine off his

Although he lost to Becker at the start of the round-robin portion of the world championship, Sampras bounced back Sunday with an impressive performance. And he also beat Agassi in the semifinals. Sampras, 23, is the first

player to stay atop for the entire year since Ivan Lendi in 1987.

"It's a great accomplishment. It just proves that I have been really consistent even though it pulled out of six events. Being injured right after Wimbledon was very frustrating and the Open experience was very discouraging. I still maintained that No. 1 ranking by a pretty good margin and I hope to continue that.

"I got Andre right behind me, dying to be No. 1 so I just need to keep working

Although beaten by



World No. 1 Pete Sampras jumps in joy after winning the ATP Tour tournament in Frankfurt (AFP photo)

Becker in five of their previous six indoor matches, Sampras rose to the occasion Sunday, even as 9,000 fans in the festhalle cheered for his

He ended the year with a 74-11 record, and is now 6-5 against Becker in his career. Becker, who was also seeking his second title after winning in 1992, collected \$640,000 for his runer-up fin-

The German, who will be 27 Tuesday, thundered 30 aces past Sampras, who only had 9. But Becker also had 12 double-faults, while Sampras had three in the two-hour, 39-minute match.

"I returned a lot better than when I played him Wednesday. I put a lot of presure on his serve, and as a result he hit a number of double-faults. It played a huge part in the match." Sampras said.

Sampras lost his serve only once, and that cost him the

Leading ATP rankings Leading men's rankings issued by the ATP tour Mon-

Pete Sampras (U.S) 5,097
 Andre Agassi (U.S.) 3,249
 Boris Becker (Germany)

4. Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 5. Goran IVanisevic (Croatia)

6. Michael Chang (U.S.) 7. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)

8. Alberto Berasategui (Spain) 2,47 9. Michael Stich (Germany) 10. Tood Martin (U.S.) 2,307 11. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Rus-12. Wayne Ferreira (S. Afri-

13. Jim Courier (U.S.) 1,909 14. Marc Rosset (Switzeriand) 15. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine)

Prince Abdullah heads JSF

AMMAN (Petra) - His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah will again head the newly-formed Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF). The reshuffled JSF now includes Dr. Mamdouh Abbadi, the mayor of Amman, as vice chairman, Ghaleb Abu Jaber, Sultan Shreideh, Haitham Majali, Fahd Bayari, Dr. Bassam Haroun and Ahmad Al Udwan.

#### Jordan's body-building team leaves for World Championship

AMMAN (Petra) — Mustafa Hasanien and Iyad Mahmoud, left Amman for Shanghai, China. Sunday to represent Jordan in the World Body-Building Cham-pionships. Twenty-seven countries are taking part in the five-day competition.

#### Tennis stars agree to donate prize money

FRANKFURT (AFP) — The worlds top tennis players have agreed to donate hundreds of thousands of dollars in prize money to help create a special "Kids Fund." Altogether one and a half million dollars will be raised from tour and world prize money donated by players. In addition big name players will appear ten times a year at special clinics, autograph and photo sessions and other promotional events in a bid to attract more young people to the game.

#### ATP wants to slow the game

FRANKFURT (AP) - In an attempt to enhance interest in the game, tennis officials are planning to slow the indoor game with the help of advanced technology and to regulate television exposure. Responding to common complaints tha the indoor game is too fast, with few rallies between players serving aces at 200kmh. The Association of Tennis Professionals tour is developing technology to overcome the problem. The tour is working with the French Tennis Federation and the International Tennis Federation to develop a machine that will measure the speed of specific balls on a specific surface, Mark Miles, chief executive officer of the IBM/ATP Tour, told reporters Sunday. Similar tests with balls will be conducted in Wimbledon "to determine an appropriate balance for play on grass."

#### Ma bids to woo back world champ Liu

BELJING (AFP) — Chinese athletics coach Ma Junren mae a direct attempt to woo back world champion Liu Dong into his 'army' of world-class athletes this month, according to the China Youth Daily. Disciplinarian Ma reportedly went to Liu's home and admitted he may have been "too extreme" with her in the past and "made some mistakes." Liu, 21 next month, won the world 1,500m title at Stuttgart last year but then fell out with her mentor after telling him she wanted a boyfriend and to grow her hair. Ma, who also trains 10,000m champion Wang Junxia and 3,000m title holder Qu Yunxia and is equally famous for feeding them on a diet of turtle's blood and a secret elixir... promptly threw her out of his Liaoning-based team, arguing she had a "rebellious nature."

#### Prince Al-Waleed distributes cars to players

RIYADH (AP) — A Saudi prince awarded each of the kingdom's 37 top soccer stars a Chevrolet Limousine after they won the Gulf Cup championship last week, sports officials disclosed Sanday. Insisting on anonymity, they said the gifts presented by Prince Al-Waleed Bin Talal Al Saud were worth \$750,000. Prince Al-Waleed, a nephew of King Fold King Fahd, made headlines by buying stock in the Euro Disney theme park in France earlier this year. He is a or shareholder of U.S. Citicorp, and has shares in Saks Fifth Avenue, the Fairmont Hotel chain in the United States and Canada's Four Seasons Hotel Inc.

#### Batistuta equals Italian scoring record

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NAPLES (R) - Gabriel Batistuta equalled a 32-year-old Italian record when he scored for Fiorentina against Napoli Sunday. The goal meant the Argentine World Cup player had scored in the first 10 league games of the season, matching the run enjoyed by Ezio Pascutti for Bologna at the start of the 1962-63 campaign.

#### Nine Kuwaitis banned for 3 months after shopping trip

KUWAIT (R) - Nine Kuwaiti soccer internationals have been suspended for three months after they went shopping without permission in the United Arab Emirates. The Kuwait news agency KUNA quoted the country's football association secretary Mohammad Othman Sunday as saying the players were punished for "ignoring instructions by officials." The nine first-team players had been dropped from last Wednesday's prestigious Gulf Cup final won 2-0 by Saudi Arabia following their shopping trip to Dubai, about 100 kms from Abu Dhabi where the match was

### Indian celebration

the Embassy of India. All Indian nationals and spouses are welcome to the 12 noon to 2 p.m. give New Jersey the winning event, which will include a "langur."

The Indian community in Jordan celebrates Guru Nanak Jayanti on Friday, Nov. 25, at the premises of

WITH OMAR SHARIF

North-South vulnerable. South NORTH ₹ 10 7 5 Q 8 5 4 EAST WEST \$ 4.10762 SOUTH 4 K 75 TA J 983 . . . The bidding.
South West North East

1. Pass 2. 2.

4. Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Three of a
When the Royal Viking Sun
docked in Bermuda near the end of
her transatlantic crossing last
month, two tasms of Bermudian
bridge players came aboard for w

month, two teams of permutan bridge players dame aboard for a social match with the ship's passengers. The cruisers won the encounter by three matches to one. This hand, however, was a triumph for the locals when a passenger slipped in defense. South valued the hand as too

West's interference and jumped to game.

West's opening spade lead was taken by East with the ace and the defender shifted to a diamond. Declarer won on the table in order to lead the ten of hearts East covered with the queen, declarer's ace won and a spade was ruffed in dumny before a trump was concaded to West's king. Since East was now out of trumps, declarer's only other loser was the ace of clubs.

Suppose East had never heard of the adage about covering an honor with an honor and had chosen instead to follow different advice: "Second hand low." Rather than covering the ten of trumps with the queen, observe the state of the state "Second hand low." Rather than covering the ten of trumps with the queen, observe the difference had East followed with the six, If declarer runs the trump, West can win with the king, cash the ace of clubs and revert to diamonds for East to ruff—down one.

It's as futile for declarer to rise with the ace of trumps and continue

West's interference and jumped to

with the act of trumps and continue with the it. Now the defenders will score two trump tricks and the two black aces to defeat the the enemy

### Wheelchair athletes end marathon

ALMA-ATA (R) — A team of phsyically became the first man to ski to the North Pole, handicapped men ended a 9,000 kilometres said the team had passed through trouble mer Soviet Union Sunday and urged govern- of troubled Tajikistan. ments worldwide to recognise the rights and needs of the disabled.

Fifteen paraplegic athletes, representing each of the ex-Soviet republics, began their fourney on June 20 in St Petersburg, passed through the capitals of the newly independent states and made it to Alma-Ata five months

Hand-pedalling their U.S.-made tricycles in

into a car park.

singers and civic leaders bearing traditional people," he said in an interview. gifts of bread and salt. The officials made brief speeches praising the team's manhood

The organiser of the event, Dimitry Shparo, a Russian explorer who in 1979 America."

wheelchair "super-marathon" across the for- spots such as Abkazia and Dushanbe, capital But it had always been helped on its way.

"This shows that friendship is our tomorrow," Shparo said. Zakir Minyashirov, the team member from

Turkmenistan, told Reuters the journey should set an example to handicapped people to take up sport and "show politicians how to find a common language."

Shparo said the satisfaction of completing

bright sunshine at a fairly steady 20 kilometres the journey equalled the thrill of his polar trek per hour on the last leg into town, the team and helped to demonstrate that governments was applauded by bystanders before pulling should treat the handicapped as real people with real rights. "In Russia and the former They were greeted by a brass band, folk Soviet republics the disabled don't count as

Four members of this team plan to go around the world on their next expedition and

are deliberately planning a tough route through China, India, North Africa and South

### Dallas win, lose two quarterbacks

DALLAS (R) - Emmitt Smith rushed for two firstquarter touchdowns and Kevin Williams returned a punt 83 yards for a score as the Dallas Cowboys survived injuries to Troy Aikman and Rodney Peete and routed the Washington Redskins, 31-7 Sunday.

Aikman directed the Cowobys (9-2) to 17 points in the first quarter before leaving in the second quarter with a sprained ligament in his left knee. Peete suffered a sprained thumb late in the third quarter and was replaced by Jason Garrett, who finished up.

In Chicago, Lewis Tillman rån for 126 yards a touchdown as the surprising Chicago Bears won their third straight game with a 20-10 victory over the Detroit

Lions. In Cincinnati, Don Majkowski's eight-yard touchdown pass to Sean Dawkins with 1:54 left lifted the Indi-

In Buffalo, Jim Kelly completed 32-of-44 passes for 365 yards and a pair of touch-downs to Andre Reed, who had a team-record 15 receptions, as the Buffalo Bills defeated the Green Bay

Packers, 29-20. Reed, who last week argued with Kelly on the sidelines during a loss to Pittsburgh, amassed 191 receiving yards. He hauled in scoring tosses of 15 and 10 yards as the Bills built a 27-6 halftime lead.

"He had one of the great games I have ever seen a receiver have." Green Bay head coach Paul Holmgren said.

In Denver, John Elway scored on a four-yard run with under two minutes left to rally the Denver Broncos to a 32-28 victory over the

Atlanta Falcons. In Kansas City, Kimble

anapolis Colts to a 17-13 vic-tory over the Cincinnaii Ben-gals.

Anders scored on a one-yard run midway through the fourth quarter as the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Cleveland Browns, 20-13.

Anders' touchdown broke a 13-13 tie and capped a seven-play, 61-yard drive. At New England, Drew Bledsoe connected with Leroy Thompson on a 27yard scoring pass in the first quarter and Matt Bahr kicked three field goals as the New England Patriots defeated the San Diego Chargers.

At the Raiders, Jeff Hostetler threw for 308 yards and three touchdowns, including a pair to Tim Brown, as the Los Angeles Raiders held on for a 24-19 victory over the New Orleans Saints.

In Pittsburgh, Gary Anderson's 39-yard field goal with just under five minutes remaining in overtime gave the Pittsburgh Steelers a 16-13 victory over the Miami Dol-

### Trail Blazers end losing streak PORTLAND. Oregon (AP) — With James Robinson fill-

ing in at point guard and Rod Strickland, Terry Porter, Negele Knight and Clyde Orexler out with injuries, the Portland Trail Blazers had just enough to end a threegame losing streak.

Robinson had 24 points, eight assists and only six turnovers as the Trail Blazers rallied to beat the Detroit Pistons 98-96 Sunday night.

"It wasn't difficult playing 48 minutes ... I just rested during timeouts and free throws," Robinson said. "We really can play well without Clyde and Rod. We've just got to keep playing hard."

Robinson, who averaged 11.6 minutes last season after leaving Alabama following his junior year, also held Pistons point guard Lindsey Hunter scoreless. Robinson and Hunter were high school teammates in Jackson, Miss.. "We didn't have much to

go to on the bench," Blazers coach P.J. Carlesimo said. "I thought James did exceptionally well."

In other games. New Jersey edged the Los Angeles Clippers 98-97 and Sacramento beat Cleveland 96-Clifford Robinson scored

26 points, Buck Williams had 15 points and 12 rebounds and Tracy Murray added 14 points for Portland. Joe Dumars led Detroit with 35 points, 22 in the first half. "We were down a lot of points in the second half but played hard." Carlesimo said. "The key to to game for us was our offensive rebounding and taking care of

the ball. Chris Dubley had 15 rebounds - seven in the fourth quarter - as Portland outrebounded Detroit 46-24.

'You can't let a team crash the offensive boards like Portland did and expect to win," Detroit coach Don Chaney said.

"You can't allow a team that many easy second shots. I told our guys about their rebounding ability before the game, and I said it again at halftime and wrote it on the blackboard, but we just didn't get it done." Strickland, who broke his right wrist Tuesday night against Phoenix, joined Por-

ter and Knight on the injured list before the game. Porter is recoverying from surgery on his right ankle and night has tendinitis in his left ankle. Drexler is out with a sprained ankic.

Clifford Robinson made



Orlando Magic guard Nick Anderson (right) slams a basket over New Jersey centre Benoît Benjamin in their NBA match. The Magic defeated the Nets 113-103 (AFP photo)

two free throws with 15 seconds left to give Portland a 96-94 lead, and added another with 8.7 seconds remaining to increase the lead

to 3. Grant Hill, who had 17 points, made two free throws with 6.2 seconds left to draw Detroit to 97-96, but Murray followed with a free throw with 5.2 seconds left and the Pistons failed to get a shot off in the final seconds. "In those final seconds we

got a couple of huge re-bounds," Carlesimo said. "It was ugly sometimes but we found a way to win."
The Pistons, who led 82-73 after three quarters, had an 84-79 advantage with 9 minutes to go, but the Blazers tied it at 94 with 46 seconds

remaining on Williams' put-James Robinson then drew an offensive foul on Dumars. Williams missed a 12-foot baseline shot with 18 seconds left. But Clifford Robinson was fouled on the rebound.

"Winning tonight is a con-

fidence builder going into our road trip to Texas," said At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Los Angeles almost got its first victory of the season, but Armon Gilliam dunked over two defenders with 7.7 seconds to play to

points. The Clippers' last chance ended when Pooh Richard-

son's desperation drive just before the buzzer was swatted away by P.J. Brown. Losl Angeles outplayed the nets most of the game, and the Clippers' led by as much as 15 in the third quarter. "It was no moral victory,"

Terry Dehere said. "A loss is

a loss and this one was

tough. Derrick Coleman had 20 points and 14 rebounds and Kenny Andreson had 20 points and 10 assists for New Jersey. Richardson Led Los Angeles with 19 points. At Sacramento, rookie Brian Grant had 18 points

rammento's last 7 points. Fel-low Rookie Michael Smith scored 6 of his 13 points in the fourth quarter. "Michael makes as few mistakes as any rookie I've seen in 15 years." Kings coach Garry St. Jean said. Duane Causwell added 14

points, and Guard Randy

Brown sparked the team with

five assists in place of Spud

and 10 rebounds off the

bench and scored 6 of SAc-

Webb, who sat out with a sprained ankle. Tyrone hill had 17 points and 20 rebounds for cleve-

### GOREN BRIDGE

IGNORE THAT MAXIM strong for a 15-17 point one-no-trump opening bid. Once North could raise South brushed aside

# AY, NUVEMBER 22, 1994

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### ada JSF Mal Highness Prince Abdullah

#### for UEFA Cup glory Coruna's hopes of stepping out of the long Spanish shadows cast by Real Madrid and Barcelona over European soccer hang heavily on Brazilian World Cup striker

Bebeto being fit for UEFA Cup action Tuesday. Bebeto was a notable absentee as Coruna plunged to their first league defeat of the season at the weekend, a 2-0 reverse to Real Oviedo

which knocked them off the top of the table. The Brazilian faces a late fitness test on an Achilles tendon injury before know-ing whether he can face German league leaders Borussia Dortmund in perhaps the most intriguing of the third

Like Parma in Italy, Coruna have risen suddenly from obscurity to mount a sustained challenge to the best of domestic level in recent

Unlike Parma, Cup Winners' Cup victors in 1993 and runners-up this year. Coruna now need a strong European run to fulfil their ambition to become a club with a true

international pedigree. Dortmund are well aware they face a stern test of character on their visit to Spain for the first leg. Trainer Ottmar Hitzfeld said: "Deportivo Coruna are on a par with Barcelona or Real Mad-

DORTMUND (AP) -

Romania turned in strong

performances in every event Sunday to win the women's

title at the Gymnastic World

But a surprising U.S. team

overcame the loss of world

champion Shannon Miller

and held on to edge Russia

That showing established

the American women as

Romania's top rivals in early

jockeying for the 1996 Olym-

Every gymnast pretty

much had the meet of their lives," said U.S. coach Mary

Lee Tracy of the team's effort

without Miller, the most suc-

cessful American female

Saturday, edging Russia.

China won the men's title

American team after

Wednesday's compulsories,

saying she wanted to ease her

tournament load, Nonethe-

less, the American team pre-

dicted they would overcome

Romania pulled away from

the six squads in the first

event, ringing up solid 9.8's or better in the vault. Led by

ISTANBUL (AP) — Naim Suleymanoglu, the Turkish lifter known as "pocket Her-

cules," now three gold med-

als and set three more world

records Sunday at the World Weightlifting Cham-

Suleymanoglu, who won the snatch, the clean and jerk and the combined events in

the men's 64-kilogramme

class, twice broke records set

only minutes earlier by valer-

In the women's 54 kg category, Sheng Wang of

China alos collected three

Sulcymanoglu's victory in

the senatch after former

world record-holder Attila

Czanka of Hungary, ham-

pered by an ailing right arm.

was able to lift only 140 kgs

Czanka was followed by

the previously unknown

Leomidis, whoi lifted 146,5

kgs on his third attempt,

T

ios Leonidis of Greece.

Team Championships.

for second place.

rid, they just don't quite such a

star striker Stephane Cha-puisat will be fit in time for the match. The Swiss World Cup player is being treated

for a bruised left foot, an injury received in the disappointing 1-1 home draw with Freiburg Saturday.

Parma, playing in the HEFA Con this season fea-UEFA Cup this season, feature in an equally tantalising

Spain's Coruna look to Bebeto

knocked out Newcastle Unlong tradition."
Hitzfeld is also hoping his ited in the last round, have Spanish international midfielder Julen Guerrero back from injury
Italy still have four teams

in with a chance of reaching the quarter-finals and all play Auriol's

hopes in

jeopardy

CHESTER, England (AFP)

— Didier Auriol's hopes of

becoming the first French-

man to capture the world title nosedived on Sunday after

suffering serious damage to

his Toyota Celica on the first

Auriol, the current leader

of the drivers' championship

needs only to finish in fourth

place to land the title, even if

nearest rival Carlos sainz

But he plunged to 89th place, more than four mi-

nutes behind the Spaniard,

after his car hit a rock and

limped through the third

stage with suspension, steer-

ing and driveshaft problems.

rallying's most notoriously

fickle and unpredictable

event left to run, Auriol's

chances of making up the

deficit look remote, although

Sainz would still have to fin-

ish in the top three to claim

He battled back up the

leaderboard to finish the day

inside the top 40, but still a

distant five minutes behind

hoped the first day would go.

I wanted to take it easy and

see how the others were going and pace myself," said

"But now we must go flat

Toyota boss Phil Short did

his best to hide the dis-

appointment, insisting: "I am

sure he can still come back

into a good position."

ready for

**Olympics** 

LONDON (AFP) - Rugby

Union will make an official

return to the Olympics next

week and a ten-a-side version

of the game is likely to fea-

The sport, which was dis-

continued earlier in the cen-

tury, will be formally recog-

nised as an Olympic sport at a

ceremony before the game between Wales and South

Africa in Cardiff next Satur-

International Olympic

Committee President Juan

Antonio Samaranch and Ver-

non Pugh the chairman of the

International Rugby Football

Board will sign an agreement

that will make rugby a non-

participating sport in the

ture by the 2004 Games.

Rugby

out to regain a good posi-

tion," he added.

"That was not the way I

Even with three days of

day of the RAC Rally.

vere to win.

his third title.

the leaders.

Auriol.

world title

away in the first leg.

Lazio, another side running strongly in the league, are without injured Croatian striker Alen Boksic as they travel to the other side of

### European Soccer

clash in northern Spain when they meet Athletic Bilbao. The Italian League leaders will badly miss their Swedish midfield ace Tomas Brolin

who broke an ankle last week

and may be out for the rest of

the season. Their Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla is also injured but Portuguese interna-tional Fernando Couto, who scored in Sunday's 2-0 win over Foggia, makes a welcome return to European competition, having missed

Bilbao coach Javier Irureta does nto believe Parma have been weakend. . "They still have a lot of quality players to replace those who are injured," he said. The Basque side, who

three games through suspen-

Gina Gogean and Lavinia

Milosovici off its 1992 Olym-

European power maintained

ican Dominique Dawes.

breaking Czanka's record by half a kilo.

Suleymanoglu then step-ped up and litted 147.5 kilog-

rammes — the 38th time he

has broken a world record ---

sending the crowd into a fren-

In the clean and jerk,

Leonidis lifted 180.5 kgs in

his second attempt to break

the former record of 180 kgs

Suleymanoglu then

ordered 181 kgs placed on the bar and lifted it, breaking the

record again and regaining the title. He used his last

attempt to lift 182.5 kgs for a

Leonidis tried but failed to

A crowd of about 6,000 at

lift 185 kgs (407 pounds) in

the 10,000-seat Abdi Ipekci

Sports Palace was warned

three times for jeering and

booing lifters from Greece

and Armenia. As Suleyma-

noglu won victory after vic-

held by Suleymanoglu.

40th world record.

his final attempt.

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Europe to taste the delights of a possionate and partisan Turkish crowd when they play Trabzonspor.

Juventus visit Austria to meet Admira Wacker and Napoli go to Eintracht Frankfurt in two of three matches being played on Thursday. In the other, Nantes of France

play Swiss side Sion. Real Madrid, who won the trophy in 1985 and 1986, have a comfortable-looking trip to Odense of Denmark. who are surprised to ahve gone this far in the competi-

But Real's Danish forward Michael Laudrup, who makes a sentimental return home, will doubtless warn his team mates not to underestimate a side which knocked out Germany's Kaiserslautern in the last round.

Romania wins women's gymnastics Her fans think she's still golden, her critics say she pic silver medalist team, the shouldn't bother coming

> that level through all four Romania landed gold with combined score of they all remember is the shin-195.8476. Over a point being talent of the 14-year-old hind was the United States at 194.645, edging bronze medallist Russia at 194.546 and China at 194.132.

The battle for the silver medal between the U.S. and Romania, which this Russian teams was decided weekend won the gold medal in the World Gymnastics on the last routine by Amer-Championships.

The tournament was the first time the world's top gymnastic powers could see how they stack up against each other since the unified team, made up of former which made her a star in her Soviet Republics, dominated social whirl in the capital Romanians have mixed feelings about return of

Comaneci Five years after her dramatic escape from her former communist country, Romanians have mixed feelings about the return of gymnastics star Nadia Comaneci.

back. Her mother just hopes she'll get a friendly welcome when she gets home. Whether they call her difficult or a diva, the one thing

girl who scored the world's first perfect 10 in the 1976 Montreal Olympics. It's a talent that continues to illuminate the way for

Comaneci's hectic 10-day schedule on the fifth anniversary of her escape includes a visit to the gym home town of Onesti in

includes a meeting with President Ion Iliescu. But some say Nadia's golden crown in the gym is tarnished by her sometimes turbulent personal life and an alleged lack of commitment

to the sport, from retirement in 1982 to the moment she fled the country. Weightlifting records fall in Istanbul

tory, they screamed.

shouted, waved flags and

Sulcymanoglu, a national

hero in Turkey, defected in

1986 from Bulgaria, where he

had been a two-time world

danced in celebration.

Olympic movement. It is likely that the agreement reached will be a compromise between the 15-man game and the sevens version.

There seems to be increasing support for the 10man rugby which is growing in popularity throughout the world and is used almost fulltime by the southern hemisphere countries during sum-

mer training," said Pugh.

The full-sized and sevens He earned his nickname because he stands only 1.52 versions of the game have metres tall but can lift three been ruled out as possibilities times his body weight.
Sheng swept her competisince successful competitions like the World Cap and the tion with a combined total of 197.5 kgs to collect three gold Hong Kong sevens tournament already exist.

#### Forte Grand, Abu Shakra launch promotional programme

THE FORTE Grand Amman and Abu Shakra launched a joint promotional programme at a party held at the hotel on Wednesday

November 8th. Forte Points, which is a bookers incentive prog-ramme, is aimed at re-

warding the bookers through Abu Shakra. Mr. Rami Abu Shakra G.M. of Abu Shakra Trading Agency attended the party together with Mr. Richard Lewis, Director of Sales and Marketing at the Forte Grand who said "The programme is exciting, rewarding and it works" to the 350 people who attended the launch.

The launch party included a presentation on how programme actually works, dinner, a make up demonstration by Abu Shakra's beauty consultant ended with a raffle draw where many won valuable prizes donated by Abu Shakra and the Forte Grand.

Shows: 3:15, 5:00

### 1st Division Basketball Championship

# Hussein score crucial victory as Watani near relegation

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Al Hussein Sunday took a most important step towards maintaining their place in the first division basketball championship when they upset Al Watani 79-76 delighting hundreds of fans in their match on the Yarmouk

University court in Irbid. The win put to rest, for the time being, the grim prospect of Al Hussein's relegation for the first time since they played in the prestigious group. However, they will have to repeat their wins over Homentmen and Al Watani in the second round to hold on to

fifth place in the division. The result of Al Watani's final first round match was quite a blow to the team's player, coach and fans as they had the ambition of advancing their fifth standing this year, but now suddenly find themselves fighting to avoid relegation.

38-34 in the first half, Homentmen are now certain to be relegated unless they defeat Al Watani and Al Hussein by a score difference in the second round, as two teams will be relegated this year.

Al Watani were leading

In other matches Sunday, Al Orthodoxi could only manage a 74-64 win over the other team from



Irbid, Al Jalil, who gave the former champions a hard time before losing the first half 36-31.

A fourth place finisher for the past two years, Al Jalil seem set to stay in the same position for another year after losing 73-69 to Al Jazireh. They might however take third place if they beat Al Jazireb with over 4 points in the second round.

Despite their defeats, Al Jalil have appeared to be a highly competitive team denying the titleholders their first win under the 100-point mark when Al Ahli won 96-69, the first half ending 43-33.
Al Jalil will next face Al

Hussein Tuesday. In Sunday's third match, Al Jazireh lost to Al Ahli match left against Homent-men Wednesday. Al Orthodoxi, who have

Al Jaziren have one

lost the efforts of many older players, especially Murad Barakat, demonstrated that they are still a formidable force backed by the presence of Hilal Barakat, the team's undisputed star who is carrying the whole burden of scoring for his team in the absence of his elder brother.

Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi now lead the standings with ten points, but Al Ahli leads on score difference. The all-time rivals will

clash in the much awaited

first round final Nov. 23. The Jordan Basketball Federation issued the schedule of the competition's second round which begins Nov. 26 and ends with the second Ahli-Orthodoxi final Dec. 15.

#### STANDINGS ·

|          | P | W | L | SF  | SA  | Pts |
|----------|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| hli      | 5 | 5 |   | 571 | 278 | 10  |
| rthodoxi | 5 | 5 | _ | 488 | 272 | 10  |
| rzireh   | 5 | 3 | 2 | 395 | 396 | 8   |
| dil      | 5 | 2 | 3 | 388 | 375 | 7   |
| atani    | 6 | 1 | 5 | 416 | 545 | 7   |
| ussein   | 5 | 2 | 3 | 313 | 442 | 7   |
| omentmen | 5 | _ | 5 | 225 | 488 | 5   |
|          |   |   |   |     |     |     |

### Christie suggests prison for drug-takers

LONDON (Agencies) — World and Olympic 100-metre champion Linford Christie suggested Sunday that athletes who use banned substances should be sent to

"Because of drugs controversies, athletics is in a sad state. If people want to take the risk they should face the consequences.

The home secretary says that people who peddle ster-

oids should be sent to prison. It is my view that if you are going to sentence a steroids pusher then why not also give

91-62, the first half ending

Al Jazireh's plans for

second place this season

were upset when Al Ortho-

doxi defeated them 92-75 in

an earlier match. They will

thus have to be content

with third place for the

third consecutive year, un-

less they defeat Al Ortho-

doxi by over 17 points in

the same sentence to a taker? "Little takers become big

pushers if they are not killed in between the process.

"They can hang them for

all I care. The sentence doesn't affect me because .I don't take drugs.'

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| CORD "1"<br>Hanks in<br>SS in Seattle<br>3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 | Presents  "Water is a Gift of Life"  A family and children play produced and directed by: Akram Abul Ragheb  Daily at 10 a.m. | Announces a temporary suspension of the performance Qirbeh Makhzouqa "Punctured Bag" | Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Dally at 8:30 p.m. |

Tel.: 634144 Tel.: 699238 Cinema CON PLAZA PHILADELPHIA CONC Tom H Eric Roberts & Jeff The film which won Sleepless Fahey seven Oscars Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 1 CONCORD "2" T in IN THE NAME OF FREESALL We will announce the re-Saturday & Sunday is ধ The Arabic Movie THE FATHER SPEED theatre's holiday, The Immigrant sumption of the play in Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 its new form later on.

## Algerian opposition meets in Rome, calls for peace

ROME (Agencies) — Leading members of Algeria's opposition and civil rights groups on Monday called for peace talks to end fighting which they say risks plunging the country into a full-blown civil: war.

Former Algerian President-Ahmad Ben Bella criticised violence employed by the military-backed government in the conflict on the opening day of a two-day gathering in Rome to discuss the crisis.

The Algerian government is not taking part and has attacked the Rome discussions, saying it never sought outside mediation and would not tolerate interference in its internal affairs.

"We are seeing the first signs of what could become a full-blown civil war. There is too much blood — there must be a dialogue," Mr. Ben Bella told representatives from 12 opposition groups taking part in the talks.

At least 10,000 people have been killed in Algeria since the army cancelled elections in 1992 in which the

fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had taken a commanding lead. Western experts put the death toll in the conflict at up to 20,000.

"Many of the civilian victims are not Islamists but people who made the mistake of living in the wrong neigh-bourhood," said Mr. Ben Bella. 75.

"I call on politicians to calm their spirits and to put a stop to the violence, from wherever it comes," said Mr. Ben Bella, who heads the moderate Movement for

Abdennour Ali Yahya, a former minister who now leads the country's League for Human Rights, said the rate of killings by the authorities and opposition guerrillas had increased drastically re-

"Hundreds of people are dying every day," he said. "Every morning, dozens of Algerians are found dead by the side of the road. The whole country is affected."

Torture was common for anyone taken into police cus-

> Mr. Haddam added that his group had offered to send a delegation to Algeria for talks and was waiting for assurances that their safety would be guaranteed. "We are open to any prop-

asked.

tody and deaths were now

being reported in every vil-

lage, he added.

Mr. Ben Yahya said vio-

lence had skyrocketed since

talks between the govern-ment and the outlawed FIS

collapsed last month, after

the government accused the

FIS of backing fundamental-

ist violence that has killed

The senior FIS delegate to

the conference, Anwar Had-

dam, denied that his group

encouraged the killing of

foreigners.
"We call this terrorism and

we condemn these acts," said

Mr. Haddam, who is the leader of the FIS's parliamen-

tary delegation to the United

States and Europe. He blamed the military

government for creating the tension which engendered

the violence and said those who carried out the killings

had to take political responsi-

bility for them.
"If we cannot guarantee

the safety of Algerians in

Algeria how can that of fore-igners be guaranteed?" he

some 70 foreigners.

osal," he said, pledging that the front would stick to the principles of political plural-ism and would not seek to change the constitution other than by legal means.

The talks are being held at the Roman Catholic Sant Egidio community, which has a record of successful international peace brokering.

The Vatican has distanced itself from the talks, saying they were an independent initiative on the part of Sant'

The Algerian government refused to send a representative, while militantly anti-Islamist groups were also absent. The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) - the armed wing of the FIS - was not

(Continued on page 7)



SHOW OF STRENGTH: Armed members of the Fatch Hawks swarm a truck during a demonstration in Gaza City on Monday. More than 15,000 people took to the streets in

support of Yasser Arafat following heavy clashes with Islamic rioters that left 16 people dead on Friday (see page

Carlos Menem

Kurieh added.

of Damascus.

Abdul Halim Khaddam and

Zuheir Masharka, Prime

Minister Mahmoud Al

Zoubi, Foreign Minister

Farouk Al Sharaa and Justice

Minister Hassan Hassun

attended the meeting, Mr.

A seminar has been set for

Tuesday for Syrian and Argentine businessmen, who

are expected to reactivate bi-

lateral trade, scientific and

cultural agreements signed in

On Wednesday, Mr.

Menem was to visit his old

family house in the village of

Yabrud, 80 kilometres north

ancestors' homeland, I am

proud to meet President

Assad, and I am sure that our

talks will be fruitful and suc-

cessful," Mr. Menem told the

Syrian news agency before

leaving Buenos Aires.

"I am proud to visit my

### Shekel weakens

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli shekel weakened against the dollar and basket of foreign currencies for the second consecutive day on Monday as the Central bank intervened to prop up the local currency, dealers said.

The shekel's weakness was a result of rumours of an impending shekel devalua-tion as banks speculated by buying dollars heavily.

The Bank of Israel inter-

vened to moderate the fall of the shekel.

"The dollar opened trade at 3.026 shekels per dollar and reached a high of 3.070 shekels before the Bank of Israel intervened by supplying huge amounts of dollars to the hungry banks, thus sup-porting the shekel," said Ilan Zadka of Bank Mizrahi. "The turnover was enor-

mous. The shekel closed the daily tender at 3.034 shekels per dollar against 3.026 shekels on Friday and 2.995 shekels on Thursday.

against 3,3737 on Friday and 3.3456 on Thursday.

The shekel traded against the ven at 3.0761 shekels per 100 yen, unchanged from Friday, and against the mark at 1.9439 shekels per mark from 1,9432 on Friday.

traded at 3.0369 shekels.

### Menem in Syria, may try peace mediation

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — President Carlos Menem of Argentina arrived Monday for talks with Syrian officials amid reports he would offer to mediate between Syria and

Mr. Menem, who is of Syrian origin, was greeted at the airport by President Hafez Al Assad. After a 21-gun salvo and inspection of the guard of an arrangement of the guard honour, Mr. Assad and his guest drove to Tishrin palace. It was the first visit to Syria

by an Argentine president. The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) quoted Mr. Menem as saying before he left Buenos Aires for Damascus that he was very proud to visit Syria, "the homeland of my father and

grandfather. He said he looked forward to meeting "my relatives and friends" and that "my meeting with President Hafez Assad will make the visit the happiest of my trips and tours."

An official announcement shekels per basket unit released in Damascus on Sunday said Mr. Menem would hold talks with his Syrian counterpart. The announcement did not say what subjects the two leaders will discuss.

However, reports from Buenos Aires said Mr. In late afternoon the dollar | Menem had expressed a willinguess to play the role of

mediator between Syria and

He was quoted as saying at a reception at the Syrian Club in Buenos Aires that he would discuss with Mr. Assad the need to establish peace in the Middle East" and that he was was prepared to "take part in the peace process" between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

In Israel, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres welcomed a possible Menem mediation bid, saying, "I'm sure that President Menem is capable of carrying important mes-sages from Israel to Syria and from Syria to Israel.

He mentioned Mr. Menem's Syrian origins and added that "the fact that a president from this origin is supporting so much and so seriously the peace process in the Middle East and coexistence of different religions and ethnic groups in Argentina itself speak very much to his credit."

Government ministers and around 100 businessmen accompanied Mr. Menem for

the three-day trip.

The two presidents had a first session of talks at the guest palace of Tishrin, where Mr. Menem was staying, Mr. Assad spokesman Gibran Kurieh told

AFP. Syrian vice presidents



#### Queen Elizabeth wins lottery

LONDON (R) - Queen Elizabeth was among the win-ners in the first draw of Britain's new National Lottery, Today newspaper reported in its Monday editions. Britain's richest woman won £10 (\$15.70) but she will have to share it with the other members of a 20-strong royal syndicate including her hus-band, Prince Philip, and the Queen Mother, it said. They will each get 50 pence (80) cents). The royal punters were among 1.1 million Britons who won the minimum prize in the lottery by picking three of the six numbers drawn Saturday evening. The queen sat alone in Windsor Castle watching the draw live on television. Today said. "She loves a flutter," a royal source told the newspaper. She gets very excited when something she has bet on comes in even second or third."

#### Diana documentary sells to 21 countries

LONDON (AFP) — A television documentary highlighting the life of Princess Diana and broadcast Saturday evening in Britain has. been sold to 21 countries, producers Granada and London Weekend Television said Sunday. The documentary. Diana: Portrait Of A Princess, was based on royal author Andrew Morton's recent bestseller Diana: Her New Life and uses an actress to portray one of his main sources whose identity has not been revealed. Mr. Morton also scored a major hit with his earlier work Diana: Her True Story, based on witness accounts by close friends of her life in the royal household who described her as fraught with misery and prene to bouts of bulimia and severé depression. Among nerworks to buy the film are U.S. broadcaster CBS and stations in Australia France, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Russia and South Africa. The film crew folowed Princess Diana around for several months after she decided to limit public engagements last Décember, a move which they noted had apparently not stopped her from keeping going her ambiguous relationship with the press. Newspapers have continually rushed to print exclusive pictures of the princess visiting homeless people in London. Diana is described in the film as a young woman trying to determine which way her new life should go now she has separated from her husband Prince Charles. Her chief concern remains the future of her sons Princes William and Harry. Her astrologer is shown as saying she knew Prince Charles did not love Princess Diana even

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### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Syria says 'mild' quake hit country

DAMASCUS (R) — An earthquake hit northeast Syria on Sunday but caused no casualties or damage, officials said. They said the quake, which they termed as "mild," measured 1.5 on the Richter steel and lasted less than 10 seconds at around 1430 GMT. It was felt by residents in the cities of Days Arrange, Bakke and Harstell, and harden as cities of Dayr Azzawr, Rakka and Hasakah, northeast of Damascus. Turkish monitors said a strong earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale hit northeast Syria on Sunday and was felt in four provinces of Turkey. A quake of that strength is powerful enough to cause heavy damage in a populated area. Syrian officials said that oil operations in the Dayr Azzawr area, where most of Syria's oilfields are located, were running normally.

government to visit South Korea, an official announcement said Monday. Before coming to Seoul, Mr. Rabin is to visit Japan Dec. 12-14 for talks with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, Japan's Foreign Ministry said. It also will be the first visit to Japan by an Israeli prime minister. Mr. Rabin will confer with South Korean President Kim Young-Sam on the situations in Northeast Asia and the Middle East, chief presidential spokesman Choo Don-Shik said. During Mr. Rabin's stay, the two countries will sign an aviation agreement to open direct flights between their capitals, transportation ministry officials said. Israel and South Korea established formal diplomatic ties in 1962 but their relations have been bumpy because of Seoul's relations with Arab countries. The two countries withdrew their diplomats in the 1970s, Israel reopened its embassy in Seoul early this year but South Korea has yet to recipro-

#### Pollard remains threat to security — CIA says

selling secrets to Israel. He admitted selling classified information to Israel from 1984 until his arrest in November 1985, receiving as much as \$2,500 a month. President Clinton refused to reduce Mr. Pollard's sentence last year.

#### Former G.E. manager sentenced for fraud

CINCINNATI (AFP) - A former General Electric (GE) manager who plotted to divert millions of dollars in U.S. defence contracts to Israel has been sentenced to seven years in prison. Herbert B. Steindler, who was GE's international sales manager, apologised for his actions at Friday's sentencing but U.S. District Judge Carl Rubin was unmoved. Mr. Steindler, 55, of Melbourne, Florida, pleaded guilty in July in conspiracy, wire fraud, money laundering and use of the mali in racketeering, and agreed to repay \$1.7 million to the U.S. government. He was convicted in connection with a scheme to divert \$11 million from G.E. contracts with the U.S. government to supply jet engines to Israel. The scheme ran between 1984 and 1990. A former Israeli army general was convicted in Israel for his involvement in the scheme in 1991 while G.H. paid \$69 million in fines, penalties and damages.

#### Death sentences sought in tourist slayings

CAIRO (AP) - Egypt's military prosecutor on Monday called for the death penalty for four suspected extremists accused of killing a German tourist and two Egyptians. Two of the men are at large. The attack occurred Sept. 28 in the Red Sea resort of Hurghada. Another German and an Egyptian were wounded in the shooting on the crowded street. The prosecutor also called for harsh prison sent-ences for 12 other suspected militants implicated in planning the attack. Four of them are at large. Foreign reporters and Egyptian reporters with foreign news organisations have been banned from the trial on grounds the coverage distorts Egypt's image abroad. The case against the 16 defendants opened Nov. 5 and is expected to conclude by the end of this month, according to a military official who spoke on condition of anonymity. The defence is to begin Tuesday.

#### Palestinian minister visits France

PARIS (AFP) - The culture minister of the Palestinian authority was due to arrive in France on Monday for a week-long visit concentrating on problems of education in the newly-autonomous territories, officials said. Yasser Abed Rabbo, minister for culture and arts, will also discuss Franco-Palestinian cultural cooperation with French officials during the visit, the foreign ministry announced. During the trip, which comes amid heightened tension in the Gaza Strip following clashes last week which left 18 dead, he will meet Culture Minister Jacques Toubon as well as senior officials at the foreign ministry. Foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque said the latest clashes would not influence France's continuing support for the Palestinian authority.

#### Rabin to visit Seoul, Tokyo

SEOUL (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will visit Seoul Dec. 14-17, becoming the first Israeli head of

WASHINGTON (AP) — Convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard, who is eligible for parole next year, has tried to reveal classified information from prison and remains a security risk, according to Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) documents. "He retains the ability to harm our national security because on his intelligence, his power of recollection, his history of significant emotional instability. his history of drug abuse and his overriding loyalty to another country," the agency wrote in documents cited in Monday's edition of Defence Week, a weekly newsletter that covers the defence industry. The declassified documents were provided to the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which asked the CIA and the Defence Intelligence Agency to assess the potential national security damage if Mr. Pollard were released, the newsletter said Mr. Pollard's attorney, Theodore Olson, responded that the CIA's accusations of drug abuse and continued attempts to reveal classified information are unfounded. Mr. Pollard, a former navy intelligence analyst, was sentenced to life in prison in 1987 after pleading guilty to

#### before they married in 1981. Chinese police illegally detain anti-smoking

BELIING (R) — Chinese

police illegally detained two

elders

prominent, elderly antismoking activists for 18 days after they took their campaign to a Beijing store and later paid them compensa-tion, officials said Monday. The police have acknowledged their error and apologised to the two old men."
said Zhang Yifang, of the
National Smoking and Health Association under the Ministry of Health. "They have admitted that the incarceration was wrongful and have paid compensation to the men." Mr. Zhang told Reuters. Mr. Zhang told Reuters. Mr. Zhang said his association had invited activists He Cai. 67, of central Hunan province, and Zhuo Xiangbiao, 64, from northern Shanki province. Xiangbiao, 64, from northern Shanxi province, to the Chinese capital to help promote its sponsorship of a global anti-smoking forum to be held in Beijing in 1997. He and Zhuo already were revered for walking 10,000 "Li"—about 5,000 kilometres or 3,100 miles—despite their 3.100 miles — despite their advanced age last year in a modern 'long march against smoking. While in Beijing last March, the two took their campaign to a tobacco counter at one of China's biggest department stores, where they tried to pose with antismoking arm bands in front of displays for foreign cigarettes.



optimisation in agriculture By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN — Arabs and

Israelis might be able to resolve Middle Eastern political problems through the three-year-old peace negotiations, but the chronic shortage of water in the mostly arid region could be addressed-only through wise management since there is not enough to go around, Euro-pean and Arab experts said

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Monday. Agriculture is an area where users particularly tend to waste water through inappropriate use due to either carelessness or lack of expert advise in most countries in the region, the experts told the first working session of a three-day seminar on "Optimisation of Water in Agricul-

Representatives of more than a dozen Arab and European countries and international and regional organisations are participating in the seminar, organised by the French embassy in Amman in cooperation with the University of Jordan and the Jerdan Valley Authority and parfly financed by the Delegation of the Commission of the European Union in

The focus on the meeting is a close assessment of the water situation in the Middle East and how the region's farmers could make optimum use of the available water, which international studies have found to be far short of the actual needs of the region regardless of political agree-

The seminar, formally opened by Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (see page 3), was described as a forum for "providing practical results available to farmers throughout the Middle East" rather than a "formal meeting between exchanging theroetical points of view in a closed circuit" by French Ambassador Bernard Ba-

Yves Gazzo, head of the European Commission delegation in Amman, spoke briefly about the problems faced by the region's countries in view of the high rate of population growth, climatic conditions, limited water resources and the rising demand for water in the agricul-

Experts review water and

ture sector. Noting that experts have set a 500 cubic metres per capita consumption as the acceptable base for any country, Mr. Gazzo said water use in Jordan (where per capita consumption was 245 cubic metres in 1993) and other countries in the region were already below the base line.

As such, he said, there is an urgent need to coordinate efforts in water to manage existing as well as future water resources in an optimal

Among the topics under review at the seminar are irrigation methods and techniques presently used in the region as well as proposed means to raise efficient use of agriculture water, land and water policies, water resources development in Syria, irrigation management, vegetable production and irrigation in Turkey, Sudan's experience in horticultural crops, means to improve water resources, fossil water resources, use of tre-

Avedis Serpekian, an official of the Jordan Valley Authority, presented a detailed situation report on irrigation in Jordan, giving the areas of irrigation, number of dams and reservoirs and the Kingdom's plans to maintain and develop its water sector through projects which have national and regional dimen-

SIORS. Palestine Agricultural Relief Committee, a nongovernmental organisation based in Jerusalem, presented an assessment of Palestinian agriculture and the constraints imposed on Palestinian farming by the Israeli occupation authorities

"When you know that you

water in irrigation by Patrice Guinet of Agro-Resources of

ated water for irrigation, and water conservation methods. rechargeable groundwater resources are fully allocated and new water resources were scarce, Prof. Wolff cal-

Shawkat Sarsour of the

(see page 2).

Mahmoud Awad of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) reviewed the land and water policies in the region. In a question and answer session, he emphasised the need to introduce control measures as a means to ensure optimum use of water and preempt waste through imposing realistic

are paying for it, you will get up and close a (leaking) tap," Mr. Awad said.

Presented during Monday's session were also working papers that detailed optimisation of water in Palestine agriculture by a Palestinian expert, constraints on high efficiency in irrigation management by Ross Hagan of the United States, information system for irrigation management in the Jordan Valley by Dr. Mohammad Shatanawi of the Water and Environmental Research Centre, effective water use in Jordan by Abdel Nabi Far-dous of the Jordan Environmental Society, supplemental irrigation by Theib Oweis of the International Centre for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas, and economising

Professor Peter Wolff of the University of Kassel, Germany, described "wise water management" as one of the "most crucial challenges facing the Near East." Noting that the normal flows of most Near Eastern rivers and most of the

led for innovative approaches to water management. The professor also briefly reviewed water management in Germany, which, he said, is also facing a water shor-

tage.
Prof. Wolff said Jordan's irrigation sector "will have to get along with less and less water and will be forced to use water of marginal quality" and called on the sector to adjust to the situation "as

fast as possible."
"This can only be achieved through intensive research work, especially on-farm research, adjustments to the legal framework, institutional developments, establishment of supporting and extension services etc." he told the gathering. "There is no general model applicable to Jordan. Jordan, as all countries in a similar situation, will have to find its own way of dealing with the problem.

"But is always very helpful

to look at problems other

countries are facing and how

they are being solved."